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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

90th plenary meeting
Friday, 28 June 2013, 4 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Román-Morey (Peru), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee under agenda items 128 to 130, 146, 147, 149 to 151, 153 to 164 and 171.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Justin Kisoka of the United Republic of Tanzania, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly.

Mr. Kisoka (United Republic of Tanzania), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour today to introduce to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee that contain recommendations on issues that required action during the second part of the resumed sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

In the course of the second part of the resumed session, which took place between 6 and 31 May and on 27 and 28 June, the Fifth Committee held eight formal meetings, as well as numerous informal meetings and informal-informal consultations.

In accordance with resolution 49/233, of 23 December 1994, the second part of the resumed session of the Fifth Committee was devoted primarily to considering the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and associated peacekeeping issues. The Committee considered the financing of 18 peacekeeping missions, as well as other related peacekeeping items and issues.

On agenda item 128, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", the Committee, in paragraph 7 of its report contained in document A/67/666/Add.1, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 130, entitled "Programme Budget for the biennium 2012-2013", the Committee, in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/67/677/Add.3, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution and a draft decision, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 146, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations", in paragraph 9 of its report contained in document A/67/858/Add.1, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions, entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations" and "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy", both of which the Committee adopted without a vote.

With regard to the draft resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations, I should like to inform the General Assembly that, with the exception of the draft resolution under sub-item (b), entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", of agenda item 158, the Committee adopted all of them without a vote.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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The reports of the Fifth Committee are presented under the following agenda items: agenda item 147, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei", as contained in document A/67/898; agenda item 149, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire", as contained in document A/67/899; agenda item 150, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus", as contained in document A/67/900; agenda item 151, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", as contained in document A/67/901; agenda item 153, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste", as contained in document A/67/663/Add.1; agenda item 154, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia", as contained in document A/67/902; agenda item 155, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti", as contained in document A/67/903; agenda item 156, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo", as contained in document A/67/904; agenda item 157, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia", as contained in document A/67/905; sub-item (a) of agenda item 158, entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", as contained in document A/67/906; agenda item 159, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan", as contained in document A/67/907; agenda item 160, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan", as contained in document A/67/908; agenda item 161, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic", as contained in document A/67/909; agenda item 162, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", as contained in document A/67/910; agenda item 163, entitled "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur", as contained in document A/67/911; agenda item 164, entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)", as contained in document A/67/912; and agenda item 171, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, as contained in document A/67/913.

With regard to agenda item 158 (b), entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/67/914. The Committee considered the draft resolution as amended and decided to retain the fourth preambular paragraph and existing paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 by a single recorded vote. In paragraph 12 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, as amended, which the Committee also adopted by a recorded vote.

Finally, under agenda item 129, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", in paragraph 5 of its report contained in document A/67/673/Add.3, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision relating to questions deferred for future consideration. The Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote.

Before I conclude, allow me again to thank delegations for their cooperation in the conduct of the negotiations. I would also like to thank the Chair of the Fifth Committee, Ambassador Miguel Berger, for the way in which he guided us through our difficult work, and all the other members of the Bureau at the sixty-seventh session, with whom it is always a pleasure to work.

I would also like to thank the secretariat of the Fifth Committee, under the guidance of Ms. Sharon Van Buerle, for its dedicated efforts to facilitate the Committee's work. On a special note, allow me to wish the Chair, Ambassador Berger, and those who are returning home the best of luck in their new assignments.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote or position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified to the contrary in advance. That means that, where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 128 (*continued*)

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/666/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.39.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/235 B).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 128.

Agenda item 130 (*continued*)

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/67/677/Add.3)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.55.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/269).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 130.

Agenda item 147

Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/898)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.49.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/270).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 147.

Agenda item 149

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/899)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.52.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/271).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 149.

Agenda item 150

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/900)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.51.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/272).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 150.

Agenda item 151

Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/901)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.44.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/273).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 151.

Agenda item 153 (*continued*)

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/663/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.46.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/245 B).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 153.

Agenda item 154

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/902)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.35.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/274).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 154.

Agenda item 155

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/903)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.48.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/275).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 155.

Agenda item 156

Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/904)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.47.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/276).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 156.

Agenda item 157

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/905)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.42.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/277).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 157.

Agenda item 158

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/906)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.50.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/278).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 158.

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/914)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.37.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

I shall now put to the vote the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13, on

which a single separate and recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution were retained by 80 votes to 3, with 46 abstentions.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

None

The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by 126 votes to 3 (resolution 67/279).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Mr. Ayzouki (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation joined the consensus on the adoption of resolution 67/278, on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and voted in favour of resolution 66/279, on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. Our position is based on our consistent

support for the principle that the responsibility for financing those two forces should be borne by Israel, the aggressor and occupying Power, which was responsible for their establishment in the first place. Our position is in conformity with the basic principles contained in resolution 1874 (S-IV), of 27 June 1963.

According to the Secretary-General in his report on the budget for UNDOF (A/67/705) with respect to supplies and contractors being sourced from the Alpha side, I wish to point out once again that any logistical support for the Alpha side must be transferred exclusively through the legitimate border gates, not through the Alpha passage. We have informed the Secretary-General, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDOF of that.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 158.

Agenda item 159

Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/907)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report, the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.43.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/280).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 159.

Agenda item 160

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/908)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report, the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.36.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/281).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 160.

Agenda item 161

Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/909)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report, the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.34.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/282).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 161.

Agenda item 162

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/910)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.40.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/283).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 162.

Agenda item 163

Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/911)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.41.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/284).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 163.

Agenda item 164

Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/912)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.45.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/285).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 164.

Agenda item 171

Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/913)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.38.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 67/286).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 171.

Agenda item 146 (*continued*)

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/858/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I and II.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations". For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.53.

Before proceeding further, I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 16 of the report of the Fifth Committee relating to the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support on the implementation of paragraph 17.

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 67/287).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics base at Brindisi, Italy". For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.54.

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 67/288).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 146.

Agenda item 129 (*continued*)

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/67/673/Add.3)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft decision is contained in document A/C.5/67/L.56.

The Assembly will now take action on the draft decision, entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 67/552 C).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 129.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank my friend Mr. Miguel Berger, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and Chair of the Fifth Committee, members of the Bureau and representatives for a job well done.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee before it.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.91

General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

91st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 9 July 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev, President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session

The President: It is my sad duty to inform members of the General Assembly of the passing away, on 1 July, of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev, President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Mr. Ganev was a remarkable man of peace who served his country and the international community as a politician, diplomat and jurist. As President of the General Assembly, Mr. Ganev played an outstanding role in the Organization and made a major contribution towards the achievement of the objectives set out in the Charter of the United Nations. On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to convey our deepest condolences to the Government and people of Bulgaria and to Mr. Ganev's bereaved family.

Mr. Ganev's was an illustrious career, both within and outside the United Nations. As President, he guided the Assembly of 179 Member States, tackling a diverse range of issues facing the globe in the last decade of the twentieth century. By all accounts, he was an astute diplomat, capable of facilitating the building of consensus on topics that included regional disarmament, the establishment of a fund to protect the environment, humanitarian aid to Somalia and United Nations peacekeeping.

Stoyan Ganev was born in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria, in 1955. He studied at Sofia University's Faculty of Law and went on to serve as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs in his country's first democratic Government. He diligently and expertly negotiated Bulgaria's treaty of accession to the European Union in 2005. Above all, Mr. Ganev was respected by Member States as a fair and productive President of the General Assembly, a man who will always be remembered for his commitment to the founding principles of the United Nations.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev, former President of the General Assembly. May he rest in peace.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General: I would like to offer my condolences to the family of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev, President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, and to all his friends and loved ones in Bulgaria and around the world, on his untimely passing earlier this month.

He died young, aged only 57. But he was here at the United Nations as a young man, too — one of the youngest ever to hold the post of President of the General Assembly. As such, he brought welcome energy to our work at a time of particular challenge and hope for the Organization. The historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — the

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Earth Summit — had just taken place, and he helped to steer our follow-up on the original road from Rio de Janeiro. The Balkans were in turmoil, and his regional knowledge brought a useful perspective to that challenge. Most of all, his tenure coincided with a period when the United Nations, freed from the constraints of the Cold War, was able to act and engage in new ways to address global problems. Mr. Ganev, a skilled jurist and politician, used his tenure to advance that work, and today we continue to build upon his contributions.

I had the great pleasure of meeting him several times over the years. He participated actively in the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly. I feel a certain kinship with his service in that capacity, given my own experience here during the Republic of Korea's presidency of this body.

May all who knew Stoyan Ganev take some solace in knowing that he is remembered here as someone who believed in the great power and potential of the General Assembly. May he rest in peace and eternity. Or, as they say in Bulgarian, *Bog da go prosti* — God rest his soul.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Khalil (Egypt): I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the Group of African States to express our deepest and most sincere condolences to the people and Government of the Republic of Bulgaria following the death of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev, former Prime Minister of Bulgaria, and President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Mr. Ganev dedicated the greater part of his life to enhancing the welfare of his people and the people of his region. His role in achieving economic reforms in Eastern Europe and implementing regional security structures as part of overall security in Europe will not be forgotten. He also contributed to Bulgaria's accession to the Council of Europe and the European Union. He was 37 years old when he assumed the presidency of the Assembly, the youngest-ever President at the time. He will nevertheless be remembered as one of the Assembly's great Presidents.

His contribution to international peace and security was widely recognized. In 1992, the first African Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, awarded Mr. Ganev the United Nations Gold Medal of Peace for his contributions to preserving peace and security on our planet.

The African Group will always remember Mr. Ganev's contribution to the work of the United Nations and to making it more effective in finding solutions to political, economic and social issues of concern to all Member States. May God Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Solomon Islands, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mrs. Beck (Solomon Islands): It is an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States. It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev, President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, we offer our deepest condolences to his bereaved family and friends and to the Government and people of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as his many admirers.

On this occasion, we pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Ganev and his distinguished service to the United Nations and humankind. We remember and acknowledge him for the work he did to consolidate world peace and security through his presidency of the General Assembly by finding solutions to political, socioeconomic and environmental problems.

The late Mr. Ganev, a highly regarded leader of his country, had been Deputy Prime Minister and Minister held a variety of portfolios in his country's service. He worked tirelessly to promote democracy and economic reform in Eastern Europe and to address security and cooperation in Europe overall. He was instrumental in furthering a number of peace and cooperative initiatives, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1991. His service to the United Nations and the global community will be remembered in years to come. May he rest in peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Poland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Sarkowicz (Poland): On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, let me extend my sympathies on the occasion of the death of Mr. Stoyan Ganev, President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh

session, and to convey my sincere condolences to his family and to the people and Government of Bulgaria.

Mr. Stoyan Ganev will be remembered as an extraordinary personality who was active in the international arena. As the President of the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, he supported the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in consolidating world peace and security and making it far more effective in finding solutions to political, socioeconomic, environmental and other problems. His death is a great loss to the United Nations. He will always be remembered as a strong advocate of multilateralism and friendship among nations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Vidal (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Stoyan Ganev, President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. To his family and his country, we convey our deepest condolences for this untimely loss.

After having been Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Mr. Ganev presided over the General Assembly at a critical time when a number of countries joined the United Nations and a number of conflicts affected international and regional peace and security. During his presidency, the Assembly achieved significant progress in such crucial areas as the situation of women, climate change and the fight against apartheid, inter alia. Those achievements benefited millions of people, and their effects can still be felt today.

Mr. Ganev was the President of the General Assembly at a time when the peace processes in our region and others enjoyed priority on the United Nations agenda. It was under his presidency and through his leadership that this body was able to lend its crucial support to lasting peace and development in various countries of my regional group. We will therefore always be grateful to him.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iceland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Ms. Gunnarsdóttir (Iceland): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Group of Western European and other States. I would like to convey our deepest condolences to the people and Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the sad passing away of their former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, who was also President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, His Excellency Mr. Stoyan Ganev.

As Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ganev made history by serving in Bulgaria's first non-Communist Cabinet in 47 years, during an important and historic period in the region. At the same time, he became President of the General Assembly at a crucial time for the Organization. In that capacity, Mr. Ganev's support for an enhanced role for the United Nations in consolidating world peace and security and for making the United Nations more effective in finding solutions to political, social, economic, environmental and other problems served us well. Our thoughts and sympathy are with the family and friends of Mr. Ganev.

The President: I now call on the representative of Bulgaria.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria): Allow me to first convey the profound gratitude of the Government of Bulgaria for this tribute to the memory of the late President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Stoyan Ganev. I thank Assembly members for all the warm words of condolence on the demise of Mr. Ganev. On a personal note, I would like to say that I had the privilege of working as First Deputy to Mr. Ganev in his capacity as Foreign Minister, so for me this tribute has even greater significance.

Today we mourn the premature loss of a top-level and outstanding Bulgarian diplomat, and we bow in tribute to his memory. Mr. Stoyan Ganev was a politician who was emblematic of the democratic change in Bulgaria. His work as a member of the Seventh Grand National Assembly, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1991 and 1992, and as the President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session left an indelible mark on our recent history. As a Bulgarian politician, he contributed to the building of our democracy. He carried this commitment throughout his life. He stood for a set of principles and a belief that individuals should be free to determine their own destiny and live with liberty, dignity and justice.

Lecturing on constitutional law at Sofia University after his term the United Nations, and at universities in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and New York, he was devoted to one of the most important missions of the United Nations — promoting the rule of law at both the national and the international levels.

Mr. Ganev's one year as the President of the General Assembly corresponded to a deeply challenging time in the world and in the life of the Organization. The world looked very different when he took office, with the Cold War having just come to an end. Mr. Ganev saw the United Nations as an indispensable forum for advancing the common goals of humankind, and believed in the power of multilateral diplomacy. When he left office, in 1993, the world had undergone profound changes that could hardly have been imagined 10 years before.

Mr. Ganev was deeply invested in the international cooperation that the United Nations represents. In 1992, Mr. Ganev was awarded the Secretary-General's Gold Medal for Peace for his contributions to the preservation of peace and security on the planet. He remained committed to the cause of the United Nations throughout his life and followed with keen interest all major developments in the world Organization. I believe that Mr. Ganev's contribution will be remembered as meaningful, and he will remain in the Organization's collective memory.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the United Nations system

(b) Central role of the United Nations system in

Draft resolution (A/67/L.73)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held its debate on sub-item (b) of agenda item 118 at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 17 May.

It is my honour to preside over today's meeting of the General Assembly in which Member States will consider two draft resolutions that I believe will greatly advance the cause of sustainable development. The outcome document (resolution 66/288, annex) of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) mandated the General Assembly to oversee the three important workstreams of the post-2015 agenda. During the resumed part of the sixty-seventh session, progress has been made with regard to each of them.

Last January, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was finally constituted; it has since held four clusters of productive meetings. Last month, Member States established the 30-person Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. I will announce the precise date of its first meeting shortly. Most likely, it will be at the end of August. In a few moments, the General Assembly will adopt a draft resolution that establishes the institutional foundation for a high-level political forum to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development (A/67/L.72).

I take today's opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Cesare Maria Ragaglini, Permanent Representative of Italy, and Ambassador Luis Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Permanent Representative of Brazil, as well as his predecessor, Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, for their tireless efforts over several months of intensive consultations.

The forum will conduct regular reviews on the follow-up and implementation of the SDGs. It will also serve, according to the draft resolution, as a dynamic platform for regular dialogue, stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development. Beginning with the sixty-eighth session, the forum will convene quadrennially in the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government and will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly. Its annual meetings, comprising a ministerial segment as well, will be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and chaired by the Council's President.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind the Assembly that we still need to reach an agreement on the concluding text of the special event to follow up on efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which will be held on 25 September during the high-level segment of the general debate of the sixty-eighth session. I believe that its outcome document should provide a clear road map for how to effectuate a smooth transition from the MDGs to the SDGs. In my view, the MDGs need to fold into the emerging SDGs framework. By 2015, we should have a single integrated development agenda, not two parallel tracks. I am confident that those and other deliberations to come will be enriched by the expected adoption of the other draft resolution on today's schedule, which lays the foundation upon which coordination on global

economic, financial and trade issues can be built up in the time ahead.

Before proceeding, allow me to thank Ambassador Octavio Errázuriz, Permanent Representative of Chile, together with his hard-working staff, for the leading role they have played in achieving consensus on the text before us. For several years, the Global Governance Group, chaired by Singapore, has been helping to generate momentum for just that sort of endeavour. I am indebted to them for the support they gave to the idea of regularizing interaction with the Group of 20 (G-20), especially during the thematic debate we held on 15 April on the United Nations and global economic governance.

I believe that we are taking a very significant step today. For the first time, an act of the Organization grants that intergovernmental groupings such as the G-20 may take policy decisions with global implications and recognizes the importance and benefits of continuing flexible and regular interaction between them and the United Nations. The draft resolution establishes a link between the two without infringing on any established prerogatives. The General Assembly is now understood to be the pre-eminent venue in which the G-20 and non-G-20 Member States communicate with each other as sovereign equals. Henceforth, it will serve as an inclusive consultative platform for countries to reflect on common concerns, share information and present their respective views on global economic, financial and trade issues.

The draft resolution includes provisions that welcome informal engagement between the United Nations and the G-20 through a set of briefings organized by the President of the General Assembly. He or she is invited to continue the practice of enabling representatives of the G-20 presidency to take part in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly membership with a view to promoting transparency and coherence and to strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation in global economic governance matters.

It also calls on the President of the General Assembly to continue to convene informal meetings of the plenary at which the Secretary-General would consult with Member States before attending G-20 summits and brief them afterwards. Moreover, a clause in the draft text invites the President of the General Assembly to convoke thematic debates together with the President of the Economic and Social Council, encompassing G-20 and non-G-20 priorities.

Finally, the draft resolution envisages that the Secretary-General shall submit a report to the General Assembly assessing whether its provisions have been implemented, while taking into account the post-2015 agenda. In my view, that last provision is of immense importance; it goes beyond regularization by assigning a role to the G-20 in the achievement of sustainable development. That reinforces the terms of the Rio+20 outcome document, which indicates that the SDGs should be global in nature and universally applicable to all countries.

As we look ahead to the many steps that still need to be taken, we should try to remember that the Organization was founded not simply to prevent the slide backwards into warfare, but also to strengthen the bonds of trust between peoples and States. That is why I remain hopeful that the boldness and vision needed to take the post-2015 agenda to the next stage can be brought to the surface in the period ahead. That would further reinforce the General Assembly's status as what the Charter terms a "centre for harmonizing the actions of nations", and thereby advance the efforts of generations to entrench sustainable peace, security and prosperity across the globe.

I now give the floor to the representative of Chile to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.73.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to introduce to the General Assembly for adoption the draft resolution entitled "The United Nations in global economic governance" (A/67/L.73). The draft resolution is sponsored by approximately 80 Member States, including developing and developed States from all continents and regional groups, large countries and small. That broad backing reflects the cross-cutting support in the Organization for the central role played by the United Nations system in the field of global governance.

The draft resolution is the outcome of a broad, three-month negotiating process. It includes proposals and suggestions made by diverse countries and groups that were added to an initial text drafted by my country with the assistance of Singapore and Switzerland, as well as of many other sponsors that worked on the first draft.

The text recognizes that, in a world changed by globalization, the agenda of all of our countries contains global challenges in particular in the sphere of international economic relations that cannot be addressed appropriately unless agreed actions are implemented by the entire international community. In that regard, the text acknowledges

> "the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral system in order to better address the urgent global challenges of today, recognizing the universality of the United Nations" [and] "reaffirms the central role of the United Nations system in ongoing efforts to find common solutions to such challenges".

Moreover, as was indicated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile when he spoke to the General Assembly on 15 April,

> "multilateralism must be an international instrument for addressing global challenges in an inclusive manner with the participation of all. However, at times it has not been possible to resolve global economic difficulties at the multilateral level in inclusive mechanisms and forums, and many key decisions have been taken in more restricted multilateral forums".

The draft resolution I am introducing today provides a constructive response to the situation by serving to strengthen mechanisms for cooperation and interaction with the United Nations and intergovernmental groupings, such as the Group of 20, that formulate policy recommendations or adopt decisions with

underlining the value of inclusive multilateralism and seeking to conserve the central role of the United Nations in global governance.

In that regard, we would underscore paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution. The first

> "[r]ecognizes the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, with international and regional forums, organizations and groups dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as appropriate".

Paragraph 13

> "welcomes the practice of informal engagement between the United Nations and intergovernmental groupings ... including the Group of 20, through informal briefings organized at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly ... in an interactive dialogue with the membership of the General Assembly".

And paragraph 14

> "recognizes the importance of the interaction between the Secretary-General and the Member States of the General Assembly regarding the participation of the Secretary-General in summits of intergovernmental groupings ... and invites the President of the General Assembly to continue organizing informal meetings for that purpose".

In this manner, efforts have been made to affirm and reinforce a constructive practice of the Organization. We believe that the draft resolution provides a valuable contribution to that end, from the perspective of the United Nations commitment to multilateralism and the role it plays in global economic governance.

The draft resolution also, most essentially, includes a recognition of the importance of coordination and complementarity among the universal mechanisms for global economic governance and the regional and subregional mechanisms. The text clearly refers to the fact that regional and subregional forums are essential to ensuring good global economic governance. In that regard, it specifically underscores regional, interregional and subregional initiatives and agreements, including integration processes to promote

reaffirming the need to ensure that the regional and subregional organizations and agreements are better integrated in the context of global economic governance.

To that end, the draft resolution recognizes the importance of global economic governance in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to ensure the success of national development efforts. In that regard, it underscores the importance of international trade and of a system that is based on standards and on the necessary political will in order to conclude the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

In the same vein, it reaffirms the importance of strengthening and increasing the participation of developing countries in the adoption of decisions and the establishment of international norms and standards, emphasizing that the economic and financial crisis has

highlighted the need for reforms and the significant measures that have recently been taken by the Bretton Woods institutions to ensure that those institutions better reflect the current reality.

Finally, I wish to underscore, as a key component of the draft resolution, the clear recognition of the leadership role played by the United Nations in the promotion of development and the need to continue improving global economic governance and further strengthening the role of the United Nations in this regard, recognizing the functions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

I would conclude by thanking you, Mr. President, for your interest in this issue, and all delegations that participated in the negotiations for their generosity and contributions to the text, as well as for their flexibility in listening to and understanding the concerns raised by the various negotiators in what is undoubtedly a sensitive but fundamental area for the Organization.

We sincerely thank delegations for their cooperation in our country's facilitation of an exercise that we have tried to carry out in a way that avoids confrontation. In that regard, allow me to make the following particular comment. I would like to thank the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of my country, Ambassador Eduardo Gálvez, who led this exercise with the support of our delegation. We believe the outcome is substantial and well-balanced when it comes to the various perspectives. We all welcome the understanding of the meaning and the positive spirit of the draft resolution that is before the General Assembly today, for which we seek adoption by consensus.

The President: The Assembly will now take action on A/67/L.73, entitled "The United Nations in global economic governance".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/67/L.73: Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Arab Emirates.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.73?

Draft resolution A/67/L.73 was adopted (resolution 67/289).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Neo (Singapore): I thank you, Mr. President, for recognizing the work of the Global Governance Group (3G). Allow me to make a few comments on behalf of the 30 members of the 3G.

The 3G welcomes the adoption of resolution 67/289 by consensus and congratulates the Chilean delegation. The 3G emphasizes that the United Nations system must remain the cornerstone of global governance, in recognition of the universal membership and unquestioned legitimacy of the United Nations. The 3G has consistently highlighted that global standard-setting exercises must take place in formal organizations with universal membership, such as the United Nations.

The 3G has also consistently called for the strengthening of the engagement between the United Nations and the Group of 20 (G-20) through such measures as the Secretary-General's participation in G-20 summits and interactive dialogues between the G-20 and the Assembly. We therefore welcome the resolution's elaboration on those points.

Mr. Marks (United States of America): The United States joined the consensus on resolution 67/289. We would like to highlight our support for the current interaction that exists between the Group of 20 (G-20) and United Nations States Members, as indeed this dialogue began under the United States presidency of the G-20.

In the resolution just adopted, Member States took an important step in recognizing the outreach of successive G-20 presidents with the United Nations membership. The resolution sends the right signal of encouragement to continue this useful dialogue, which can help ensure that the United Nations plays a complementary and collaborative role in other international processes and forums.

The resolution also offers views on the governance and operational aspects of the international financial institutions, and the Bretton Woods institutions in

particular. Of course, any decisions on reform of the international financial institutions or the manner in which they conduct their business are the prerogative of their shareholders and their respective boards of governors. The United States does not interpret the language in this document as endorsing a formal United Nations role in decisions affecting the international financial institutions.

At the same time, Member States must act upon our responsibility to improve the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. That requires serious scrutiny of the quality of our own debate. As a first step, we must look to reduce duplicative and contradictory processes across the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In that regard, we note that the Second Committee is charged with considering economic and financial matters, and this plenary resolution addresses those issues without proper scope or context.

Mr. Escalona Ojeda (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Following the adoption of resolution 67/289, my delegation would like first of all to congratulate the delegations that sponsored it, in particular the delegation of Chile for its outstanding, balanced and impartial conduct of the informal consultations.

My delegation has always championed and promoted the strengthening of the role and authority of the General Assembly, which is the most universal and inclusive world forum and humankind's parliament. Today's resolution recognizes repeatedly the role and

time, prepared to interact with all intergovernmental stakeholders and groups in the international community.

Our delegation stresses that there are no intergovernmental groups with special privileges. The equality of sovereign States is a fundamental principle in line with the spirit of the United Nations. No meeting of an intergovernmental group can threaten the role of the General Assembly.

Venezuela is particularly grateful for the General Assembly's stressing once again of the urgency of responding in a united manner to the current global financial crisis and its serious effects. A reform of the global financial and economic architecture is urgent, as recognized in the resolution. The importance of regional and subregional economic and financial cooperation systems has been recognized by the Assembly once again. Venezuela believes that the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America - Peoples' Trade Agreement, the Common Market of the South, the Union of South American Nations and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States are key expressions of that importance, and their role and contribution continue to increase. International solidarity and cooperation are one of the pillars of our foreign policy.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position. The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 118.

Agenda item 20 (*continued*)

Sustainable development

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Draft resolution (A/67/L.72)

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly allocated sub-item (a) of agenda item 20 to the Second Committee. Members will also recall that, at its 63rd plenary meeting, on 22 January 2013, the Assembly agreed to consider the sub-item directly in plenary meeting, proceeded immediately to

Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals". Members will further recall that, at its 89th plenary meeting, on 21 June 2013, the Assembly adopted decision 67/559, entitled "Intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing".

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/67/L.72, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development".

In that connection, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the statement regarding programme budgetary implications, contained in document A/67/927. The Fifth Committee will examine, during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, the programme budget implications arising from the draft

resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon. Consequently, the financial provisions, as appropriate, will be considered in the budget appropriations to be adopted for the biennium 2014-2015.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.72?

Draft resolution A/67/L.72 was adopted (resolution 67/290).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM has attached great importance to the process of determining the organization and format of the High-level Political Forum and appreciates the consultative approach that was taken throughout. We congratulate you, Sir, on having appointed as co-facilitators the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Mr. Luis Alberto Figueiredo Machado, and his predecessor, Mrs. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, and the Permanent Representative of Italy, Mr. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, whose steadfast and astute guidance of the informal consultations led us to the finalization of resolution 67/290.

CARICOM delegations wish to place on record our sincere appreciation for the work of the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, and particularly to Ms. Natalia Novoa of Uruguay and Mr. Mohamed Khalil of Egypt, who negotiated on behalf of the Group.

The decision taken by the Heads of State and Government in Rio de Janeiro to create the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was aimed at drawing greater high-level attention to the global sustainable development agenda. Indeed, the idea was to move away from the business-as-usual mindset, which, it was generally agreed, had become unacceptable.

The finalization and adoption of resolution 67/290 will not in and of itself fulfil the aspirations that the Heads of State and Government expressed in Rio de Janeiro. Indeed, while we have arrived at agreement on a framework that could lead to greater attention being paid to sustainable development, ultimately the true measure of our success will be the level and quality of our participation in the work of the forum. It is imperative that the Heads of State and Government meet at regular intervals to provide guidance in advancing the sustainable development agenda and to pronounce themselves on emerging issues requiring urgent attention. It is also of the utmost importance that we make effective use of the preparatory process.

Mr. Balé (Congo), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Throughout the process, CARICOM and the Alliance of Small Island States have made it clear that the small island developing States (SIDS) have a vested interest in monitoring whether and how the High-level Political Forum will follow up on commitments made to small island developing States, including those in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. Admittedly, the provisions in the resolution fall short of what we had anticipated at the outset, given the inextricable linkages between the soon-to-be-defunct CSD and the High-level Political Forum. However, we are mindful of the connections between the Forum process and the parallel process on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council pursuant to resolution 61/16, which addresses institutional matters of concern to SIDS. We fully intend to continue our efforts to ensure that within the context of a strengthened Economic and Social Council there would be a robust platform for addressing SIDS issues.

Mrs. Daniel (Nauru): Nauru has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

At the outset, let me note that we are pleased to be here today to witness the adoption of resolution 67/290, on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. We commend the President of the General Assembly for his leadership and for his having appointed the representatives of Brazil and Italy, Mr. Luis Alberto Figueiredo Machado, following his predecessor, Mrs. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, and Mr. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, respectively, as facilitators. We appreciate their diligent efforts in moving the process along to the point where it is today.

I take this opportunity to recall the AOSIS statements made throughout the process and highlight our overall view on the draft. We recall the decisions set

forth in "The future we want", the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (resolution 66/288, annex), in particular its paragraph 85 (e), on establishing a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum that could follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

Throughout the process of establishing the High-level Political Forum, we worked to build on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). States members of AOSIS also drew the attention of fellow States Members of the United Nations to the fact that for the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS), the CSD had been the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

For that reason, we had hoped that a stronger mechanism for the follow-up and implementation of the commitment made to SIDS could have been explicitly anchored in the formatting and organizational aspects of the Figh-level Political Forum. Given what has transpired, we wish to highlight the fact that, with the impending dissolution of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its replacement with the Forum, it is our expectation that a suitable mechanism for following up on the implementation of commitments to SIDS issues will be created.

Allow me to stress and reiterate the link between the high-level political forum process and the process of strengthening the Economic and Social Council, as mandated by resolution 61/16, which has unfolded in parallel to the high-level political forum process but which has not yet been completed. The provisions for the high-level political forum are acceptable only because we anticipate the full support of Member States in the elaboration of an effective platform for SIDS within the context of a strengthened Economic and Social Council, which includes a strong platform for the follow-up of commitments made to SIDS. As long as the gaps remain in implementing and reviewing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, alongside the emerging and intensifying challenges, we SIDS will be unable to achieve sustainable development. Let us work together to ensure that SIDS are not left behind.

We assure the General Assembly of our full support in continuing to work together to further strengthen what we agreed upon in Rio — that is, "The future we want" — and to ensure that there is a strong mechanism to follow up on the international community's commitment to SIDS.

Mr. Marks (United States of America): The United States is pleased to join the consensus on resolution 67/290 and welcomes the important step it represents in our follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) of June 2012. We have and will continue to strongly support the vital work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on Rio+20 follow-up and in the larger process of creating a post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, we look forward to working with the Secretariat to ensure that the High-level Political Forum is as productive, efficient and effective as possible.

However, the United States is dismayed and disappointed by the fact that, yet again at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, we had to witness another instance of the last-minute provision of budget estimates to Member States responsible for negotiating the present and other resolutions. We strongly believe that increased transparency regarding budgetary figures, especially when repeatedly requested of the Secretariat during the negotiations, should be provided during the negotiation process. The United States is extremely dissatisfied that the

with extensive requests for resources. We call upon the Secretariat to identify cost savings from the phasing out of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to provide a clear and timely budget estimate, and to make every effort to absorb those costs and to pursue the most economical means of travel.

With our clarifications and expression of dissatisfaction at the oral statement, the United States supports resolution 67/290.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): We thank Ambassadors Cesare Maria Ragaglini and Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti for all their efforts and crucial contributions to the successful establishment of the High-level Political Forum.

Resolution 67/290 is a milestone agreement that will provide for a strong institutional framework for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals. One of the strengths of the Forum will be its focus on implementation, including at the national level, through an improved and strengthened review mechanism. We look forward to further discussing the necessary organizational and other details within the Forum itself.

Another major improvement of the forum is its universal intergovernmental nature. It is our understanding that paragraph 4 ensures the equal participation of all Member States and States members of specialized agencies in all aspects of the Forum, including in all matters related to decision-making.

Finally, it is our understanding that the ongoing discussions and the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council will fully comply with the agreements contained in resolution 67/290. In that regard, we understand in particular that the Forum will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for a continuous period of eight working days, in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 7. Furthermore, the process of strengthening the Economic and Social Council should refrain from altering in any way the mandate of the Forum as set out in paragraph 7.

Mr. Imanishi (Japan): First of all, my delegation would like to thank the Ambassadors of Brazil and Italy as co-facilitators, as well as their team and the Secretariat, for their hard work and tremendous efforts, which led to the adoption of resolution 67/290 today. I would also like to express my gratitude to all delegations for the flexibility they showed throughout the negotiation process.

My delegation was pleased to join the consensus. We are very happy to see the adoption of resolution 67/290, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development," thanks to which one of the main outcomes from United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will become operational. We believe that the Figh-level Political Forum should, as described in the resolution, provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on sustainable development, and should also follow up and review progress in implementing the sustainable development commitments through yearly ministerial-level meetings, and Heads-of-State and governmental-level meetings every four years.

However, my delegation would like to raise one point on the budgetary issue. It is quite regrettable that the programme budget estimate for 2014-2015, including the contingency fund, was not issued until the last minute prior to the adoption of the resolution. My delegation feels that the negotiators were forced to make a decision before being provided with complete information on the budgetary implications of their decision. In the light of the current state of global economic affairs, every Government is now being required to show increased accountability, transparency and responsibility to their respective publics, especially in terms of budgetary discipline. My delegation believes that cost information should always be available to Member States during the course of negotiations, and requests the Secretariat to change the practice of last-minute budget estimate explanations.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan): The decision to establish a universal intergovernmental High-level Political Forum was one of the critical outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Forum will be built on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which it will replace. Our colleagues, the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and Italy, who were appointed by the President of the General Assembly as co-facilitators to lead the negotiation process, convened a series of open-ended informal consultations on the format and organizational aspects of the forum.

All Member States were given an opportunity to share their views on the main issues related to the establishment of the Forum. I would like to express my deep appreciation to Ambassador Cesare Ragaglini of Italy; Ambassador Luis Machado, current Permanent Representative of Brazil; and his predecessor, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, for their capable and effective efforts, which led to the successful adoption of the resolution on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum. The adoption of resolution 67/290 today is a major landmark for the international commmunity and the United Nations system.

I also recall that Member States decided that the CSD would hold a brief final procedural session immediately prior to the convening of the first meeting

of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

I take this opportunity, in my capacity as Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twentieth session, to inform members that, together with the Secretariat, we are exploring the possibility of holding the Commission's twentieth session on Friday, 20 September, for half a day in the morning. In order to make that event a commemorative occasion, we are considering holding a high-level dialogue in which some former Chairs of the Commission on Sustainable Development would participate. Such a deliberation would allow us to reflect on the achievements and the lessons learned from the Commission since its inception, and provide a smooth institutional transition from the CSD to the High-level Political Forum.

After finalizing the details of the twentieth session of the CSD, we will be pleased to further update the Assembly on the programme and content. We look forward to the inauguration of the High-level Political Forum, which represents a new milestone for the multilateral process in the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Guerber (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): We thank co-facilitators Ambassador Ragaglini, Ambassador Figueiredo Machado and Ambassador Ribeiro Viotti for their efforts and critical contributions to the establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This is an important stage on the path to an enhanced institutional framework for sustainable development and the post-2015 development goals.

The Forum will host the future debate on sustainable development and the high-level political focus on these subjects, and will follow up and review the progress made in this area. It combines an improved integration of the three pillars of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — by taking a cross-cutting approach.

Switzerland has always emphasized the importance of strong follow-up mechanisms. We therefore welcome the fact that the Forum will focus on implementing the commitments undertaken on sustainable development, including those adopted nationally, through better and strengthened oversight, which, as of 2016, will be part of the post-2015 development programme.

We are pleased to continue discussions in the Forum on organizational and other details. Another specific advantage of the Forum is its universal and intergovernmental character. As we understand it, paragraph 4 of resolution 67/290 ensures the equal participation of all Member States, as well as States members of specialized agencies, in all aspects of the Forum, including in all decision-making matters. That also applies to meetings held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. We understand that the ongoing discussions on strengthening the Council will be fully in line with the agreements contained in the resolution. Moreover, the process of strengthening the Economic and Social Council should at all times refrain from modifying the Forum's mandate, as described in paragraph 7.

Another advantage of the Forum is its oversight function within the system — that is, its role in promoting coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies within the United Nations system in general. The inclusion of the Forum's high-level meetings within the framework of the General Assembly every four years is important. It provides the United Nations system in its entirety with an opportunity to follow up on the policy lines that issue from the High-level Political Forum by linking them to other existing processes.

As a result, it is important that, after the inaugural meeting of the Forum, at the start of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, its meeting cycle should begin at the outset of the seventieth session — in other words, in 2015. For Switzerland, that timetable would challenges ahead, particularly the convergence of the post-2015 development programme with the sustainable development agenda. By beginning the regular cycle of the forum at the start of a new agenda in September 2015, the forum will be effectively fulfilling its role, as the Member States envisaged in the resolution before us.

Mr. Escalona Ojeda (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to express our support for resolution 67/290. The General Assembly's establishment of the High-level Political Forum, in line with the mandate agreed by Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, is a development of great political importance and an achievement for which we commend all Member States. In particular, we wish

to thank Brazil, the host of the Conference, which as facilitator also played a significant role in moving the process forward. We also thank the Ambassador of Italy for his participation, as well all others who were able to ensure that the text reflected everyone's views.

For Venezuela, a key element for establishing the Forum remains its decision-making capacity at the level of Heads of State and Government, which is key for such a process aimed at providing guidance as to the path to be followed in fomenting sustainable development. We believe the pending task of adressing the three components of sustainable development — the economic, social and environmental — to be of the utmost importance. We also think that it is extremely important to ensure the convergence of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development goals, one of the three important areas to be addressed. It is also important to ensure follow-up to meetings and deliberations by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, where significant contributions are being made.

The universal nature of the Forum under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, both in terms of participation and decision-making, is a crucial aspect. In that regard, there should be no doubts when it comes to the interpretation of the resolution.

The outcome could have been better in terms of the preparatory process and when the Forum meets. We are particularly concerned to see a reduction in the number of working days for the session, from 15 to 7. However, we are well aware that the nature of Assembly agreements means that they are the product of an ardouous negotiation process.

Finally, we would like to express our readiness to participate actively in all of these efforts.

Mr. Lazarev (Republic of Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Our delegation is grateful to the facilitators of the process for developing the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum. Their leadership of that effort has resulted in today's adoption of resolution 67/290. In our opinion, establishing a High-level Political Forum in line with the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is a milestone in consolidating international efforts aimed at advancing the sustainable development agenda.

We note the cross-cutting nature of the format of the High-level Political Forum with the United Nations, making it possible for Governments to intervene at different levels, especially on sustainable development. The Forum is to be arranged and conducted in such a way that matters pertaining to sustainable development become more organized, making it easier for us to focus on them. We hope that the Forum will serve as a platform for Member States to have an opportunity to participate in discussions on sustainable development. It should help step up the work of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on sustainable development.

It is important that the Forum and its mechanisms, which have yet to come into effect, bring together all of our efforts, taking into account, wherever possible, the needs of all Member States, irrespective of their levels of income or which group they belong to. Its main purpose should be to help Member States optimize decisions for attaining sustainable development, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. We believe the review mechanism of the Forum will help foster a more constructive dialogue on development. It will help garner a distinct approach to the process, enabling Member States to take stock of improvements in ensuring sustainable development, bearing in mind both progress and opportunity. Only such an approach will make it possible for us to work together, helping both the United Nations and Member States reach their full potential to implement the sustainable development agenda successfully. For its part, Belarus will do its utmost to ensure that the High-level Political Forum becomes a success.

Mr. Zinsou (Republic of Benin) (*spoke in French*): The least developed countries welcome the adoption of resolution 67/290, on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The least developed countries welcome the spirit of consensus that prevailed during the consultations to arrive at the provisions of the resolution. We pay tribute to the Ambassadors of Brazil and Italy, who demonstrated great professionalism in steering the negotiations.

The resolution takes into account the need to further strenghten the prerogatives of the Economic and Social Council as the main United Nations body charged with ensuring coherent and coordinated economic policies for sustainable development throughout the system. The least developed countries also welcome in particular the

wording of paragraph 11, which recognizes the specific challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed. That paragraph also reiterates the need to provide enough time to consider their challenges, with the aim of further mobilizing resources and following-up commitments and ensuring that pledges are commensurate with their needs.

The least developed countries especially welcome the format identified for the participation of major groups, and in particular the continuation of the mandate for the Commission on Sustainable Development. Least developed countries will actively participate in the implementation of the resolution.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union to make a statement following the adoption of resolution 67/290.

Mr. Beviglia Zampetti (European Union): The European Union and its Member States wish to thank the co-facilitators, Ambassador Ragaglini of Italy and Ambassador Viotti — and most recently Ambassador Machado — of Brazil for all their efforts and leadership in a process that has led to the adoption of resolution 67/290 today. We are pleased with the outcome, which we trust will help all of us work together to ensure that sustainable development becomes central to debates and actions at the international, regional and national levels.

With regard to the statement referring to programme budget implications, which we saw in the fourth draft only a short while ago, we note that although there are no such implications for 2013, for which we are pleased, we are surprised to see estimated costs for 2014 and 2015 with no indication of how such costs would be absorbed to ensure that they were consistent with the agreed budget outline. In addition to that, the terms and conditions for using contingency funds would be met, which to our understanding are only estimates of an extensive interpretation of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. We would like to stress that estimates presented today do not pre-empt a submission by the Secretary-General of a proposed budget for the 2014-2015 biennium to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. Overall, let us not perceive such estimates as those endorsed by Member States today.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 20.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.92

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

92nd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 24 July 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Salam (Lebanon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Agenda item 6 (*continued*)

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

Election of one Vice-President of the General Assembly for the sixty-eighth session

The Acting President: The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 6 to proceed to the election of one Vice-President of the General Assembly for the sixty-eighth session, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Members will recall that, at its 88th plenary meeting, on 14 June 2013, the Assembly elected 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-eighth session.

In a letter dated 8 July 2013, I have been informed by the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group that the Asia-Pacific States have endorsed Timor-Leste to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Uzbekistan as a Vice-President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. We shall proceed accordingly.

Since there is only one candidate for the one seat to be filled by the Asia-Pacific States, I declare Timor-Leste elected Vice-President of the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. I congratulate Timor-Leste on its election.

I wish to remind members that, following the election of the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees, at a later date, the General Committee of the General Assembly for the sixty-eighth session will then be fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 6.

Agenda item 14 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/67/L.75)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda item 14, jointly with agenda item 9, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", at its 28th plenary meeting, on 22 October 2012.

Members will also recall that, under agenda item 14, the Assembly adopted resolution 67/18 at

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its 43rd plenary meeting, on 28 November 2012, and resolution 67/250 at its 65th plenary meeting, on 21 February 2013, and marked the global launch of the International Year of Quinoa at its 64th plenary meeting, on 20 February 2013.

I now give the floor to the representative of Singapore to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.75.

Mr. Neo (Singapore): I have the privilege to introduce, under agenda item 14, draft resolution A/67/L.75, entitled "Sanitation for All", which designates 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of "Sanitation for All".

I am sure that there will be laughter among the press and the public when it is reported that the United Nations is declaring a World Toilet Day, initiated by Singapore, no less. But the amusement at our expense is well worth it if, after putting a lid on their jokes, the world's media go on to report, and the general public goes on to learn, that 2.5 billion people still do not have proper sanitation, that 1.1 billion people still defecate in the open, and that ending open defecation will lead to a 35 per cent reduction in diarrhoea, which results in more than 750,000 deaths of children under 5 years of age every year — that is to say, in the three minutes it takes me to deliver this statement, four children under five years of age will die of diarrhoea.

The media and the public will learn that, without safe and private toilets, women and girls face the threat of violence when they go out of their homes to relieve themselves and that girls are reluctant to attend school if there are no proper toilet facilities. They will also learn that every dollar spent on sanitation brings $5.50 in return by keeping people healthy and productive, that poor sanitation costs countries 0.5 to 7 per cent of their gross domestic product, and that the economic gains globally from investing in sanitation amount to about $260 billion per year.

Their laughter is therefore welcome, especially if they recognize the prevailing and unhealthy taboo that prevents an open and serious discussion of the problems of sanitation and toilets globally. We first need to seize the world's attention, through humour and a catchy phrase like World Toilet Day, before we can inform and educate.

Small States like Singapore know that if you want to change the world today, instead of many years or decades later, you have to start small. You have to find a pivotal issue, such as toilets, by focusing all your attention and efforts on which you can achieve many disproportionate and positive outcomes in terms of health, gender equality, economic prosperity and the personal dignity of millions of the world's poorest people. In that regard, we see toilets as the gateway to the broader challenge of sanitation in all its upstream and downstream aspects. That is why the draft resolution encourages all Member States and stakeholders to approach the sanitation issue in a much broader context and to encompass all its aspects. That is also in line with the Secretary-General's appeal to Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the Deputy Secretary-General's recent Call to Action on Sanitation.

I would like to take a moment to explain how Singapore became involved with toilets and sanitation. It was largely due to a Singaporean social entrepreneur, Mr. Jack Sim, the founder of the World Toilet Organization. In 2001, Mr. Sim, also proudly know as "Mr. Toilet", established the World Toilet Organization to provide a global network for toilet associations and others involved in the toilet and sanitation sector. It now has 534 members from 86 countries. At the non-governmental level, World Toilet Day is already celebrated in many countries.

Conceptually, Mr. Sim's solutions to the toilet problem appeal to us. Among other things, he pioneered the "SaniShop", a self-sustaining, market-based initiative that empowers local communities to build and sell single-pit latrines to their community members. It is that kind of sustainable, market-based and bottom-of-the-pyramid approach to solving global development challenges that Singapore is happy to advocate at the intergovernmental level.

Through the simple draft resolution before the General Assembly today, we will have an international platform to shine a spotlight, collaborate on special events and develop further synergies on the issues of toilets and sanitation. We hope that the initiative to commemorate World Toilet Day in the context of "Sanitation for All" on 19 November will be taken up at the local, national, regional and international levels by all stakeholders in a manner appropriate to their priorities, needs and particular circumstances.

I would like to thank all Member States for their constructive participation and support during the open and transparent consultations. Their many proposals, suggestions and interventions made the draft resolution more robust and helped to accommodate the interests

of different participants. We are deeply grateful to the 120 sponsors of the draft resolution, many of whom signed on early, trusting in Singapore's stewardship of the negotiations. The cross-regional sponsorship underscores the universal recognition of the need to act on the pressing global challenge of toilets and sanitation. In that spirit, the sponsors respectfully call on all Member States to support the draft resolution.

Before I conclude, I would like to make an oral correction to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/67/L.75, which should read as "Decides to designate 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All". I would like to reassure Member States that that is simply a return to the exact phrasing that was agreed upon during the negotiations on the draft resolution. I apologize for the error made in the production of the document. I also apologize for the errors in the translations of the draft resolution. We are working with the Secretariat to correct them.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/67/L.75, entitled "Sanitation for All", as orally corrected.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Saijin Zhang (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of draft resolution A/67/L.75: Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Guyana, Iceland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam and Yemen.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.75, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/67/L.75, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 67/291).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Kim (United States of America): The United States is pleased to join today's consensus on the resolution on World Toilet Day in the context of "Sanitation for All" (resolution 67/291). We would like to thank Singapore in particular for sponsoring the resolution and contributing to better awareness and action.

Water is fundamental to the world's development goals, including health, economic growth, food security, gender equality and conflict mitigation.

We recognize that inadequate and improper sanitation undermines public health, contributes to the spread of preventable diseases and leaves marginalized populations more vulnerable. The United States strongly supports the goal of universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

As we have said before, Governments should seek to expand access, especially for underserved populations. Governments should develop and implement national policies and strategies where needed and commit sufficient resources so that they will be able to advance towards that goal as quickly as possible.

We read the resolution's references to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation in accordance with our 20 September 2010 statement at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and our 27 July 2011 statement in New York before the General Assembly.

The United States hopes that this resolution will also lead Governments to take concrete action to reduce the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and we again thank Singapore for its leadership on this issue.

The Acting President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

I now give the floor to the representative of Brunei Darussalam.

Mr. Ismail (Brunei Darussalam): I have the honour to make some brief remarks on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN is committed to enhancing the well-being and livelihood of its peoples, and therefore welcomes the adoption of resolution 67/291. Its adoption by consensus, as well as the large number of sponsors it enjoys, underscores both the widespread recognition that the lack of sanitation is a major concern for the

global community and the importance of providing access to basic sanitation services.

Accordingly, it is timely for the United Nations to designate 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of "Sanitation for All". We hope that World Toilet Day will contribute to promoting even greater awareness of the need for clean water and sanitation and to accelerating progress on the sanitation target contained in the Millennium Development Goals. By observing this international day, the global community can focus its efforts on hygiene promotion, the provision of basic sanitation services, sewerage and wastewater treatment and redouble efforts to improve the plight of the 2.5 billion people in developing countries who still lack access to improved sanitation facilities.

ASEAN is committed to ensuring that its cities and urban areas are environmentally sustainable, while meeting the social and economic needs of its peoples. That includes intensifying individual and collective efforts to improve the availability and quality of sanitation within ASEAN, as well as sharing experiences, expertise and technology on waste and water management. While recognizing that clean water, hygiene, sanitation and waste management have implications for infectious diseases, ASEAN continues to emphasize the need to strengthen regional capacities to monitor and address the potential of the spread of communicable and infectious diseases in the world.

In that regard, we appreciate the ongoing work of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations to provide basic sanitation to millions around the world. We hope that the sanitation gap will be narrowed in order to realize the goals of the campaign "Sustainable Sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015".

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tajikistan.

Mr. Aslov (Tajikistan): Allow me to deliver this statement on behalf of Finland, Hungary, Thailand and Tajikistan, the four countries of the Steering Committee of the Group of Friends of Water.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Permanent Mission of Singapore for introducing the topical resolution on "Sanitation for All" (resolution 67/291). The question at hand is very important. As the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2013* shows, accelerated progress and bolder action are needed in the area of sanitation. The question is even more timely given the ongoing discussions on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. The Steering Committee hopes that the issue of water, with its many aspects, will be given the priority and importance it deserves in the future development agenda.

The Steering Committee of the Group of Friends of Water has organized a number of side events in preparation for and as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Throughout those discussions, some messages were clear: access to safe drinking water and to sanitation are inseparable; access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a human right; and integrated and efficient water management and sanitation is a catalyst for a more sustainable economy.

We must work to end the practice of open defecation worldwide. If water is life, then sanitation is dignity. In many countries, the costs of inadequate sanitation for public health and national economies account for several percentage points of loss of gross domestic product. Investments in sanitation and hygiene bring returns in the areas of health, productivity, education, jobs and tourism. Civil society and the private sector are important partners in the promotion of smart and pro-poor solutions.

The water agenda needs to be broad and go beyond the Millennium Development Goals. Not only do we need to secure water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone, but we also need to address questions on water resource management, water quality, wastewater, resource efficiency, disaster risk reduction and preparedness for water-related disasters, and the protection of water resources and water-related ecosystems.

The countries members of the Steering Committee are organizing international events in order to discuss water and sanitation matters. The second Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 19 and 20 May this year; the High-level International Conference on Water Cooperation will be held on 22 August, in Dushanbe; and the Budapest Water Summit will be held in Budapest from 8 to 11 October. We will be sharing their outcomes with Member States.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Poulsen (European Union): The European Union and its member States would like to reaffirm their commitment to the global comprehensive agenda

on water and sanitation priority, in particular in our development cooperation. Indeed, water and sanitation are at the core of the three dimensions of sustainable development and therefore a crucial issue to tackle in order to achieve sustainable development as well as poverty eradication in a comprehensive manner.

This agenda is complex and has many dimensions, all of them equally important, from access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all, which is required for providing basic living standards and well-being, to the sustainable management of our water resources, which is also a driver for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Another element that we consider important for the overarching framework for post-2015 is equity, equality and justice. The European Union and its member States would also like to reiterate their position concerning the proclamation of international days, years and decades, which must be consistent with the international guidelines we have collectively agreed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and reaffirmed twice in General Assembly resolutions 53/199 and 61/185.

While we will join the consensus today, we will continue to actively defend and respect the Economic and Social Council guidelines on future proclamations and give priority to the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the work of the General Assembly, in support of its revitalization.

Finally, as noted by the representative of Singapore, the text that we have adopted today needs to be corrected to fully reflect the text agreed in the negotiations. We also trust that all versions in other languages will also be brought into line with the corrected English text.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 14.

Agenda item 120

Multilingualism

Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/311)

Draft resolution (A/67/L.74)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Senegal to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.74.

Mr. Diallo (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.74, on multilingualism. Introduced for the first time in 1995, the resolution on multilingualism was originally launched at the initiative of the group of francophone countries before gradually becoming the concern of a majority of delegations regardless of their linguistic or regional group. Reviewed every two years, the draft resolution reaches completion after a six-month process that has gradually enabled multilingualism to be strengthened within the Organization.

(*spoke in English*)

I would like to commend the hard work and commitment of all the delegations involved in the negotiations, working in a very positive spirit of openness and flexibility, and to express my sincere appreciation to those who agreed to sponsor the text we have before us today. I would also like to acknowledge the role of the Coordinator for Multilingualism, as well as the collaboration and decisive contribution to the process of the Secretariat, through the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

(*spoke in French*)

The United Nations was created in response to the need to ensure lasting peace, brotherhood and cooperation. In order to achieve that goal, equality among Members was established as a fundamental principle, and multilingualism naturally emerged as an essential factor in the implementation of that principle. Based on the 2012 report of the Secretary-General on multilingualism (A/67/311) and, to a certain extent, on the work of the Committee on Information, this year the draft resolution has made some genuine progress.

Regarding its form, we note and welcome its division into paragraphs following clearly identified chapter heads that display to perfection the diverse aspects covered. That diversity is very much related to a concern for complementarity, because the draft resolution, depending on the case, reaffirms, strengthens or complements the provisions for the various areas of the work of the United Nations, including information centres, conference services and the documentation and management of human resources and language service staff training.

In its essence, the draft resolution emphasizes the fundamentals — parity between the six official languages and the importance of equitable treatment in order to guarantee that all Member States can express themselves and ensure that their views are promoted

in a language that suits them. Among other essential elements, it also stresses the importance of respecting the timely distribution of official United Nations documents in the six official languages, as well as the crucial role of multilingual communication through the United Nations information centres and within its peacekeeping operations.

The importance of parity is reaffirmed in taking into consideration the evolution of the means of communication that the United Nations makes available, particularly Internet sites and social networks. In that regard, the text of the draft resolution requests that the Secretary-General assess its implementation thoroughly in his next report on multilingualism, for non-official languages as well as the official ones. In this way the draft resolution takes note of the efforts that the Organization is making with regard to other languages, in accordance with its concern for facilitating information-sharing with local populations and adapting to the evolution of the multilateral context.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

Another point that should be emphasized and that is highlighted in the text is the celebration of language days. With that initiative, adopted in 2010, the United Nations symbolically dedicates one day to each of the six official languages in order to raise the international community's awareness of their history, culture and use and, in so doing, to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity. Thus, the French language is celebrated on 20 March, International Francophonie Day; Chinese is celebrated on 19 April; English on 23 April, William Shakespeare's birthday; Russian on 6 June, the day on which the anniversary of the birth of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin is commemorated; Spanish on 12 October, the customary day for celebrating Hispanic traditions; and Arabic on 8 December, the date in 1973 on which the General Assembly designated Arabic the sixth official language (see resolution 3191 (XXVIII)). While welcoming the celebration of these days, the draft resolution also attaches importance to the role of associations and of cooperation with other international organizations, institutions and Member States in achieving the goals that have been set.

(*spoke in French*)

The draft resolution also encourages the Secretary-General to make further efforts, with the agreement of the heads of the Secretariat, to achieve a coherent approach system-wide, with reference to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on multilingualism in United Nations entities, contained in document JIU/REP/2011/4, which noted the absence of a road map for multilingualism at the system-wide level. In addition, on issues of human resources the text continues to encourage multilingual diversity in recruitment and the importance of ensuring continuing training of staff in the official languages.

(*spoke in English*)

In the area of language services, during the negotiations, delegations did not fail to express concern about the working conditions of the interpreters and translators in the Albano building. They are indeed essential to the functioning of multilingualism, and I commend their hard work. However, given the constructive dialogue that has been initiated between the language staff and the Department of Management, for the time being the delegations have agreed not to include recommendations on the issue in the draft resolution, in hopes that sustainable solutions for improving the working conditions will be found.

(*spoke in French*)

If I had to sum up its content, I would say that draft resolution A/67/L.74 reaffirms the principles of multilingualism at the United Nations, commends the progress achieved, indicates the challenges to be met and encourages the efforts that must be made to address them. Multilingualism cannot be effective without the contribution of every partner. The Secretariat, Member States, institutions and entities, all of us have a responsibility we must take, and I remain convinced that today the General Assembly will confirm its commitment by adopting by consensus, as is its tradition, the text that I have the honour to submit for its consideration.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/67/L.74, entitled "Multilingualism".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed on the draft document, the following countries have become sponsors of A/67/L.74: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Croatia, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras,

Hungary, India, Kazakhstan, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.74?

Draft resolution A/67/L.74 was adopted (resolution 67/292).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 120?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 63 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Draft resolution (A/67/L.59/Rev.1)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b) and agenda item 13, at its 25th, 26th and 28th plenary meetings, on 17 and 22 October 2012.

I now give the floor to the representative of Fiji to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.59/Rev.1.

Mr. Navoti (Fiji): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the draft resolution on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as contained in document A/67/L.59/Rev.1, under sub-item (b) of agenda item 63. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank all delegations for their constructive contribution to this draft resolution. The Group also conveys its appreciation to member States that have sponsored the draft.

At the outset, we commend the African countries, the African Union and subregional organizations on the progress they continue to make in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for peace, security and development in Africa lies with the African countries, we stress the need for support from the United Nations system and partners in order to harness Africa's vast opportunities and effectively address its challenges with a view to making further progress towards the goals of a conflict-free Africa and achieving sustainable development. In that regard, particular attention needs to be paid to addressing the challenges of eradicating poverty and unemployment, especially among the youth.

We welcome African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and cooperative Governments, such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Peer Review Mechanism. We call upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries and regional and subregional organizations, upon their request, in their ongoing efforts to promote constitutional order and the rule of law, enhance good governance, continue to fight against impunity and in the holding of free, fair, inclusive and transparent elections.

We further call on the United Nations system to invite Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict, upon their request, as appropriate, in their efforts to build national capacities, including through national security sector reform strategies, the delivery of basic public services, providing for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and the launching of income-generating activities, particularly for young people and women.

We recognize the need for African countries to make continued efforts to create an enabling environments for inclusive and sustained economic growth and development, and for the international community to continue efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources — public and private, domestic and foreign — to support the development efforts of African countries.

Finally, we call upon the United Nations system and Member States and bilateral and multilateral partners to deliver expeditiously on their commitment to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of the Political Declaration on Africa's development needs.

I have been informed that there is a need for an oral correction on the draft as submitted. In that respect, I call attention to paragraph 24 of the draft resolution, as contained in document A/67/L.59/Rev.1. In the second line of that paragraph, the comma appearing after the

word "request" should be removed so that phrase reads "upon the request as appropriate".

On that note, the Group of 77 and China look forward to the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally corrected, by consensus.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/67/L.59/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", as orally corrected.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to the sponsors listed on the draft document, the following countries have become sponsors of A/67/L.59/Rev.1: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.59/Rev.1, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/67/L.59/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 67/293).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that the consideration of draft resolution A/67/L.57/Rev.1, submitted under sub-item (a) of agenda item 63, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", is postponed for one week in order to allow for some further consultations to be conducted on the proposal.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.93

General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

93rd plenary meeting
Friday, 2 August 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 111 at its 66th plenary meeting, on 8 March 2013. In order for the Assembly to consider a note by the Secretary-General under that sub-item, it will be necessary to reopen the Assembly's consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 111. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Representatives will also recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly decided to allocate that sub-item to the Fifth Committee. To enable the Assembly to proceed expeditiously on the sub-item, may I also take it that the Assembly wishes to consider sub-item (a) of agenda item 111 directly in plenary meeting and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 111 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Note by the Secretary-General (A/67/101/Add.2)

The Acting President: As indicated in document A/67/101/Add.2, the Secretary-General has received notification of the resignation of Mr. Akira Sugiyama (Japan) from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, effective 12 August 2013. The Assembly will therefore be required to appoint at its current session a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office of Mr. Sugiyama, which expires on 31 December 2013.

As also indicated in document A/67/101/Add.2, the Government of Japan has nominated Mr. Toshihiro Aiki to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Sugiyama. The Secretariat was informed by the Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States that the candidature of Mr. Aiki had been endorsed by the Group. May I therefore take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Toshihiro Aiki as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office beginning on 12 August 2013 and ending on 31 December 2013?

It was so decided.

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13-41601 (E)

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The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.94

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

94th plenary meeting
Thursday, 15 August 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 63 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Draft resolution (A/67/L.57/Rev.1)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b) and agenda item 13 at its 25th, 26th and 28th plenary meetings, on 17 and 22 October 2012.

I now give the floor to the representative of Fiji to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.57/Rev.1.

Mr. Daunivalu (Fiji): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the draft resolution entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support" (A/67/L.57/Rev.1).

The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to all delegations for their constructive deliberations on and contributions to the draft resolution. Let me also thank all delegations, and particularly the President of the Assembly, for providing members space for clarification and discussion on certain aspects of the draft that had required further consultations by members.

The draft resolution submitted today reaffirms the support of the international community for the implementation of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development and recognizes the progress made in its implementation.

Furthermore, the draft resolution recognizes that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has provided an ideal framework for the development of various policy frameworks, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

With regard to the topic of governance, the draft resolution welcomes the commendable progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the peer review process in 15 countries, and welcomes the progress made in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews. The draft resolution also welcomes and expresses appreciation for the sustained efforts of African countries in mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership.

The progress made thus far by Africa must continue to be supported by developed countries. With less than 1,000 days left, Africa remains the only continent not

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13-42821 (E)

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on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In that regard, the draft resolution underlines the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, and urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries.

Africa's efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, create jobs and ensure sustainable development must be complemented by sustained support from development partners. In that vein, the draft resolution urges the international community to give due attention to Africa's priorities, in particular NEPAD, in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, the resolution submitted today reaffirms the pivotal role played by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and requests the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office in order for it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including monitoring and reporting on the progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/67/L.57/Rev.1, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Gettu (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.57/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/67/L.57/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 67/294).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted (resolution 67/294).

The resolution represents an important step towards the full implementation of the commitments made by the United Nations to Africa with respect to the Millennium Development Goals: the 2005 World Summit Outcome; the outcome document of the 2008 Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus; the 2008 Political Declaration on Africa's development needs; the outcome of the Istanbul Ministerial Conference of Least Developed Countries; the implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and, last but not least, the due attention that must be paid to Africa's special development needs in the post-2015 development agenda. It is therefore crucial to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to United Nations support to Africa, including following up on the implementation of all global summit and conference outcomes related to the continent.

In that vein, the African Group welcomes the request made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa and coordinating the Interdepartmental Task Force on Africa.

For those reasons, African States voted in favour of resolution 67/294. On behalf of the African Group, I would like to thank all the delegations that participated in the drafting of the resolution and that supported its adoption by consensus. It is now my wish, and that of the African Group, to see that spirit of consensus and compromise prevail when it comes to considering the programme budget implications in the Fifth Committee at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. On behalf of the African Group, we therefore appeal to all delegations to continue to support the resolution

through that process, in line with resolution 67/248, on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015, which includes the development of Africa among the eight priorities for that biennium.

Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada is extremely pleased to join the consensus on resolution 67/294, on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, especially because of our long-standing tradition of financial and political support for African development. We are aware of the importance of the issue for all citizens of Africa and, by extension, for all of us.

(*spoke in English*)

We also welcome the confirmation from the Secretariat that the resolution does not incur programme budgetary implications. In the light of the discussions that took place during the negotiation process, Canada would like to strongly emphasize the requirement that the General Assembly maintain full compliance with rule 153, and note in that respect the letter of 19 July from the Chair of the Fifth Committee to the President of the General Assembly. Those procedures are essential for ensuring that the appropriate administrative and budgetary bodies, namely, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, are properly consulted on all relevant issues. In that context, it is also critical that Member States' deliberations proceed on the basis of a timely and comprehensive justification of any potential budgetary implications. As always, Canada remains prepared to consider any request submitted in accordance with the usual rules and procedures.

Let me conclude by again stressing Canada's support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. As a trading partner and investor and an international donor, we strongly value our extensive ties across the continent and recognize the importance of development to all African States. We remain committed to furthering Africa's economic growth and development.

Mr. Mahmoud (Egypt): I speak to stress the importance of resolution 67/294, which the General Assembly has just adopted by consensus.

Since its inception during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 2002, the resolution on the New Partnership for Africa's Development has been instrumental in following up progress and providing support for Africa's development needs. We commend the efforts of all delegations in reaching a timely consensus on that important resolution. We hope that the resolution will pave the way for the much-needed strengthening of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to fulfil its important mandates, including monitoring progress on meeting Africa's special needs and coordinating the Interdepartmental Task Force on Africa. Those mandates are fundamental in helping to realize the commitments of the international community towards African development.

We urge all delegations to continue their support for the current resolution through the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly by demonstrating the same spirit of compromise that they showed during their consideration of the current resolution.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Vrailas (European Union): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States.

We are pleased to join the consensus on the adoption of resolution 67/294. The resolution contains many important elements, which we warmly embrace, including the strong alignment of development partners with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Today, we want to reiterate, loudly and clearly, our strong appreciation and commitment to supporting NEPAD.

We are pleased that the Secretariat has confirmed our understanding throughout the informal negotiations that the resolution has no programme budget implications. In that context, in particular given the prolonged discussions leading up to today's adoption, we would like to underline the importance that the EU attaches to full compliance with rule 153, and therefore the need for the appropriate budgetary bodies to be consulted in a timely manner prior to adoption, as requested by the Chair of the Fifth Committee in his letter to the President of the General Assembly of 19 July. In that regard, we would like to re-emphasize the need to receive, in a timely manner, full and comprehensive information on the possible budgetary implications of any proposed resolution that is under discussion.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the importance that the EU and its member States attach to the Africa-EU partnership and to the development of African countries. Our continents are interconnected and bound by strong ties. We are proud of having built that strategic partnership, which has at its heart the principles of African unity, European unity and mutual interdependence.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.95

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

95th plenary meeting
Thursday, 22 August 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 37 (*continued*)

Question of Palestine

Letter from the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/67/957)

The Acting President: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to a letter dated 31 July 2013 from the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/67/957).

By that letter, the President has been informed of the interest of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in becoming a member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. As delegations are aware, in accordance with resolution 3376 (XXX), adopted on 10 November 1975, members of the Committee are appointed by the General Assembly.

The proposal before the General Assembly is for the Plurinational State of Bolivia to be added to the membership of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to the enlargement of the membership of that Committee by appointing the Plurinational State of Bolivia as a member of the Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 37.

Agenda item 74 (*continued*)

Report of the International Criminal Court

Draft resolution (A/67/L.76)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda item 74 at its 29th, 31st and 32nd plenary meetings, on 1 and 6 November 2012, respectively.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.76.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): I have the honour to introduce, under agenda item 74, draft resolution A/67/L.76, entitled "Report of the International Criminal Court". In addition to the 41 countries listed in document A/67/L.76, which contains the text of the draft resolution, the following countries have indicated their wish to be included as sponsors of the resolution: Australia, Belize, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Jordan, Mongolia, Norway, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. That brings the total number of sponsors to 59.

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13-43707 (E)

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At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Nishida, Permanent Representative of Japan, and his team for having coordinated the draft resolution during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

On 1 November 2012, the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Judge Sang-Hyun Song, presented the eighth annual report of the International Criminal Court (A/67/308) to this body. We had a very constructive and in-depth debate (see A/67/PV.29) then, and I would like to highlight a few elements.

First, in order to ensure the Court's success, universal adherence to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court remains crucial. We are therefore pleased to welcome Côte d'Ivoire as the latest country to become party to the Rome Statute, which brings the total number of States that have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute to 122. It is our sincere hope that others will join in the near future.

Secondly, the International Criminal Court's annual report and the debate in the General Assembly also underlined the role of the Court in our common efforts to build an international community characterized not only by the rule of law and respect for human rights, but also by peace and security. Sustainable peace cannot be achieved if the perpetrators of the most serious crimes are not brought to justice. Peace and justice are complementary requirements.

Thirdly, I would like to highlight the fact that, despite the recent successful arrest of an accused, the situation with respect to the outstanding arrest warrants is troubling. The Court remains reliant upon State cooperation in the enforcement of its orders and decisions. If States do not provide the cooperation necessary for the Court's functioning in accordance with their legal obligations, it will not be able to fulfil its mandate and impunity will continue to flourish. The cooperation of States, international organizations and civil society is essential to the Court's functioning, not only in relation to the arrest and surrender of accused persons but also with regard to the provision of evidence, the protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and the enforcement of sentences. We are therefore pleased that, over the past year, the United Nations has continued to assist the Court in its endeavours through the implementation of the relationship agreement. We also welcome the assistance provided so far by States parties and non-States parties and call on all States to continue to support the Court's efforts in that regard.

Last but not least, I would like to recall that the hallmark of the Court is its independent judicial nature. At the same time, that judicial institution operates within the political world, and it needs States not just to cooperate with it but also to respect, protect and enhance its judicial independence.

Allow me now to return to the draft resolution itself, which serves three main objectives. First, it provides political support for the International Criminal Court as an organization and for its mandate, its aims and the work it carries out. Secondly, it underlines the importance of the relationship between the Court and the United Nations on the basis of the relationship agreement, as both the United Nations and the ICC have an equally central role in enhancing the system of international criminal justice. Lastly, the draft resolution serves to remind States and international and regional organizations of the importance of cooperating with the International Criminal Court in carrying out its tasks. Through the introduction of new paragraphs, the draft resolution reflects the increased interaction between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, as demonstrated in the frequent references to the role and the work of the Court in the official records of the United Nations.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the constructive spirit that characterized the manner in which the consultations leading to the draft resolution were conducted. The Netherlands hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus and that it will lead to even greater support for the Court in the fight against impunity and its attempts to hold the perpetrators of serious crimes accountable for their actions.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/67/L.76, entitled "Report of the International Criminal Court". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/67/L.76 was adopted (resolution 67/295).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Machado (Brazil): Brazil joined the consensus on the adoption of resolution 67/295, on the report of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We have sponsored previous resolutions on the report of the Court in order to demonstrate our unwavering support for the idea that the fight against impunity, in which the ICC plays a prominent role, is a responsibility of the international community as a whole. Our commitment to that idea remains intact and, precisely for that reason, we believe that the best way to support the Court is to voice our deep concern about a particular issue of a structural nature that goes to the core of the relationship between the ICC and the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly.

The Assembly, bearing in mind article 13 of the relationship agreement between the Court and the United Nations, has acknowledged, in the tenth preambular paragraph of the resolution,

> "the need for funding of expenses related to investigations or prosecutions of the International Criminal Court, including in connection with situations referred to the Court by the Security Council".

However, it is worrying that the Assembly failed to approve an operative paragraph in the resolution that would translate the tenth preambular paragraph into action, giving real meaning to article 13 of the relationship agreement between the two institutions. The acknowledgement of such a need must go further than mere rhetoric. At a time when the Court faces an unprecedented workload, and its own President questions, in unambiguous terms, the sustainability of a system under which referrals are made, "but the costs of any investigation and trial proceedings are met exclusively by the parties to the Rome Statute" (*S/PV.6849, p.5*), it is high time that this body decided on the conditions under which funds may be provided to the Court, in particular in relation to Security Council referrals. Important proposals have been made in that regard. Brazil has put its own suggestions on the table for discussion.

Brazil firmly believes that the involvement of the United Nations with the ICC, including through referrals by the Security Council, must be accompanied by fulfilment of the responsibility of the United Nations to provide financial support for the work of the Court. The General Assembly has a crucial and urgent role to play in that regard.

Mr. Tladi (South Africa): My delegation is also pleased to join in the consensus on the adoption of resolution 67/295, on the report of the International Criminal Court (ICC). South Africa is and has been a steadfast supporter of international criminal justice and the International Criminal Court, and has in the past sponsored this particular resolution.

As a State party to the Rome Statute, we are keenly aware of the budget implications of investigations and prosecutions. In that regard, we wish to point out that the cost of investigations and prosecutions of situations referred to the ICC by the Security Council should be borne by the United Nations as a whole. After all, such situations are referred to the ICC on behalf of the United Nations as a whole, and it is inequitable that only States parties to the Rome Statute should bear the costs.

More to the point, my delegation is concerned that the practice of the Security Council of excluding the possibility of United Nations financing for situations referred to the ICC by the Council amounts to a usurpation of the functions of the General Assembly under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

For those reasons, while we joined the consensus on the draft resolution, we wish to express our disappointment that, notwithstanding several proposals and lengthy discussions, it does not address the important issue of financing.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of the Sudan would like to remind the General Assembly that the Sudan is not a State party to the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court. We do not recognize the Court, and therefore do not recognize its decisions. That also applies to other countries that are not signatories to the Rome Statute. Therefore, resolution 67/295, just adopted, does not concern the Sudan. I would like my delegation's position to be reflected in the record of today's meeting.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

I shall now give the floor to speakers who wish to make statements following the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Logar (Slovenia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Argentina, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary,

Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and my own country, Slovenia.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 67/295 by consensus and we are pleased by the progress made in many parts of the text. We particularly appreciate the active and constructive engagement of non-State parties during the consultation process.

The resolution is a cornerstone for the advancement of international criminal law and practice, namely, through the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Therefore, we consider it essential that the resolution adequately reflect the current state of play in the Court, its relations with the membership of the United Nations in its entirety and the progress made by the ICC and the challenges it faces.

The financing of the costs arising from the Court's activities triggered by Security Council referrals continues to be a matter of concern for us. In this year's resolution and in those of previous years, the General Assembly has noted the need for the funding of the expenses related to investigations or prosecutions of the ICC. While the subject of the financing of Security Council referrals was barely touched upon in this year's consultation process, we would like to reiterate that finding a solution acceptable to all States should be part of future negotiations.

As State parties, we would like to point out that the Rome Statute covers four crimes. We regret that it was not possible to find wording for the resolution to adequately refer to the Statute when it comes to complementarity, cooperation and judicial assistance.

We welcome the fact that the Secretary-General's guidance on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court has been recognized this year for the first time, in paragraph 12. It is our common understanding that the Secretary-General will continue to report on the implementation of that guidance in his report requested in paragraph 11.

Mr. Weisleder (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation aligns itself with the statement just made by the Permanent Representative of Slovenia on behalf of a group of States parties. I wish to raise some additional considerations in my national capacity.

Costa Rica welcomes the adoption by consensus of the resolution on the report of the International Criminal Court (resolution 67/295). That is a recognition of the fact that the Court has made an undeniable contribution to justice, peace, combating impunity, and reconciliation in the world, which is the international community's greatest achievement in that regard. We must therefore decisively promote it until its universality is achieved.

My delegation wishes once again to recall, however, that the primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting the worst crimes against humanity lies with States themselves. Therein lies the principle of complementarity, which is often referred to but not always practiced.

Costa Rica reiterates its profound concern at the repeated instances of non-cooperation with the Court. Those are particularly serious when States parties have refused to execute arrest warrants that are in force. But non-State parties, in accordance with principles of the rule of law and obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, should also cooperate with the Court, at least for those cases referred to it by the Security Council.

The Security Council, for its part, has an outstanding task — that of establishing a uniform protocol that is predictable and transparent for the referral of cases to the Court. During the open debate convened by Guatemala on the relationship between the Security Council and the Court (see S/PV.6849), many States, including my own, referred to respectful appeals to that end. We are confident that the Council will value those recommendations, whose aim is to build confidence in the impartiality of the Court's decisions.

The Security Council should not provide for any exceptions to the jurisdiction that would violate the principle of equality before the law and jeopardize its credibility and that of the International Criminal Court. The Council's resolutions should also include the obligation that all States Members of the United Nations cooperate with the Court, in accordance with Article 103 of the Charter, and the establishment of monitoring mechanisms and the financing of referred cases. On the latter point, we would have preferred to have seen clearer language in the resolution that we have just adopted.

It is precisely because of its importance that the workload of the Court is now greater than it has ever been. There are eight ongoing investigations, eight preliminary investigations, 22 arrest warrants and nine new summonses. In those circumstances, our support

must be stronger and more consistent that ever and it should grow in the future.

A little more than one month ago, during the celebration of International Criminal Justice Day, 13 Latin American States parties to the Rome Statute — the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela — circulated a communiqué that reflected the support of our region for the Court. As a conclusion to my statement, I wish to share some words from that communiqué.

"We must not forget the fact that, although much progress has been made, we still have a long road full of challenges ahead of us. We wish on this occasion to reiterate our conviction that impunity for those who commit the most serious crimes against humanity endangers the stability of international order, and we reassert our commitment to combating such impunity."

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 74?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.96

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

96th plenary meeting
Friday, 23 August 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 12 at its 42nd plenary meeting, on 28 November 2012. In order for the Assembly to take action on the draft resolution before it today, it will be necessary to reopen the consideration of agenda item 12. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of agenda item 12?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Sport for peace and development

Draft resolution (A/67/L.77)

The President: It is a great honour to preside over this meeting of the General Assembly, at which we will adopt a historic draft resolution (A/67/L.77) proclaiming 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

At the outset of my remarks, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Her Excellency Ms. Isabelle Picco, Permanent Representative of Monaco, and His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, for their tireless efforts to secure consensus on the wording of the draft resolution.

On behalf of the United Nations, allow me to welcome and extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and to pay tribute to the broad legacy of achievement during his 12-year tenure at the helm of the IOC, including the attainment of permanent observer status at the United Nations, in 2009. For his distinguished contributions to the world of sport and beyond, we owe him a big debt of gratitude.

Last, but certainly not least, I am proud to acknowledge the presence of my nation's favourite son, the world's number-one men's tennis player, Mr. Novak Djokovic. His accomplishments on the court have been widely recognized. But more importantly, I believe one can draw inspiration from his personality and strength of character, his steadfastness of purpose and his fortitude to persevere. Allow me to use this opportunity to congratulate him once more on having received the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian of the Year award in recognition of his charitable work and the role he plays as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. We look forward to following his remarkable career for many more years to come.

Sport's significance for the improvement of an individual's character and a society's welfare traces its origins back to the very dawn of our civilizations — to pharaonic Egypt and ancient China. It was the classical Greeks, however, who began to place sport at the very centre of their identity, establishing the Olympic Games some two and a half millenniums ago. The quadrennial celebration of the springtime of humankind, as it has been called, gave participants the opportunity to reach

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for greatness and to achieve their *aristeia* — their finest moment. Victors' heads were adorned with olive wreaths and red ribbons were tied around their hands to symbolize the banishment of weapons from the Olympics.

Those rituals were performed out of respect for the command of the Oracle at Delphi to practise peace through sport, codified through the law of *ekecheiria*, or sacred truce, which enabled athletes and spectators not only to travel to the Games safely, but forbade anyone to make war during the time they were taking place. The Olympic creed was inspired by the words of the Greek philosopher Epictetus:

> "the most important thing in the Olympics is not winning, but taking part; the essential thing in life is not victory, but contesting well and nobly".

To this very day, that immortal phrase represents the true essence of the Olympic spirit.

In many ways, sport is an embodiment of humankind's most valiant characteristics. It requires perseverance and discipline, engendering the principles of personal integrity, fair play and honourable competition, and inspiring us to push ourselves beyond limits, in Lord Tennyson's unforgettable verse, "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." I believe those words frame the universal values of sport, which in contemporary times the United Nations, together with the IOC, has sought to promote.

In 1993, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/11, which called for the observance of a truce during the Games, intending not only to halt hostilities between belligerents but also to strengthen international efforts to promote peace and reconciliation among Member States. In 2010, at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (see A/65/PV.3), which was held at United Nations Headquarters, Heads of State and Government adopted landmark resolution 65/1, which acknowledged sport as a powerful tool in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Across the globe, sport programmes have been used to deliver HIV/AIDS prevention messages, help curb obesity rates, promote children's and maternal health and further gender equality. The draft resolution before the Assembly today builds upon those initiatives, in recognition of the fact that sport has a unique power to attract, mobilize and inspire people around the world.

As the General Assembly takes further steps to define the post-2015 agenda, I hope that the values inherent in sport will inform our deliberations on how to define the sustainable development goals. I would like to extend an appeal to Member States to come together at this critical moment and fulfil the tasks set by world leaders in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, directing the world on the path of sustainable development.

In establishing this International Day, let us pay tribute to the great legends of the past whose athletic achievements, character and moral fortitude have earned them a place of distinction in the pantheon of Olympic glory — champions such as Jesse Owens, who defied fascist ideology through his stunning victory in Berlin in 1936. Let us also honour our contemporary heroes and the virtues they personify. They ignite the sentiments of hope and possibility, reminding us of the splendid potential of humankind. And let us express deep esteem for the para-athletes who, in their quest for sporting distinction, are bravely defying disabilities and defeating negative stereotypes.

Sport can be a powerful handmaiden for peace and reconciliation. It can bring us closer through a shared celebration of achievements of universal appeal and attraction. Ethnic, religious and economic divisions fall by the wayside, along with prejudice, fear and misunderstanding.

In the words of the greatest living statesman, Nelson Mandela, a heroic figure whose political legacy and moral weight has left a lasting mark on our times,

> "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire and unite people in a way that little else does."

For young and old, male and female, rich and poor — every match, every competition represents a new opportunity to triumph. The stadium, the swimming pool, the dusty local pitch — such sites are transformed into places where greatness is within reach for all, where purity of endeavour is on full display and where any individual's abilities can be seen and admired without reservation. In effortlessly throwing asunder all human barriers, sport is indeed the world's universal language.

I now give the floor to the representative of Monaco to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.77.

Ms. Picco (Monaco) (*spoke in French*): By designating us as co-facilitators to conduct the consultations that

have led today to the General Assembly's impending declaration of an International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, you, Mr. President, did the Permanent Representative of Tunisia and me the honour of recognizing the contribution of the Group of Friends for Sport for Development and Peace to the work of the Organization. Like you, Sir, and many delegations, Tunisia and Monaco are convinced of the power of sport to contribute to the realization of our shared aspirations.

Before formally introducing the draft resolution, I would like to make the following correction to it. I will continue in English, as that was the language in which the text was submitted for printing and introduction.

(*spoke in English*)

Paragraph 5 should read as follows:

> "Also requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of States and the organizations of the United Nations system."

(*spoke in French*)

It is my honour, on behalf of the sponsors listed in document A/67/L.77 and the additional sponsors, which will be announced before its adoption, to introduce the draft resolution entitled "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace".

As you, Mr. President, said, since 1993 sport has been on the agenda of the General Assembly as a means of achieving a more peaceful and better world. The appeal launched by the General Assembly every two years to Member States to observe the Olympic Truce is part of the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Sport transcends borders, bringing together men, women, young people and older people — of all countries, all cultures and all ages — around universal values, such as respect for others, tolerance, humility and equality. Reconciliation through sport in countries in crisis or emerging from conflict now exists and should be increased because it offers prospects for peace and inclusion. At a time when we are endeavouring to breathe a final political breath into achieving the Millennium Development Goals, every effort deserves be encouraged. Since the fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly has recognized sport as a means of promoting education, health, development and peace.

In the draft resolution before us, we wanted to link sports to physical activity, a central element of good health and well-being. In fact, physical activity allows us to reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases, for example, and other illnesses.

Among the many international days proclaimed by the United Nations, none has been on sports. We have now filled that void, and now, every 6 April, we will have an opportunity to continue the spirit of the first Olympic Games of the modern era, held in Athens in 1896. Of course, the purpose of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is not only devoted to professional sports; it is also seeks to pay tribute to sports in general, which epitomizes both the noble values that we all aspire to, including surpassing ourselves.

The success of its annual celebration will be especially poignant because it relies on a number of initiatives and activities undertaken by all sport partners. In that regard, let me recognize in particular the importance of activities conducted and promoted by the Office on Sport for Development and Peace since its inception in 2001.

In our work, we will count on the wholehearted support of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, symbols of a movement that defends an ideal of human progress and which cooperates already in a substantial way with the Organization through a number of partnerships, the latest being the holding of the third edition of the International Forum on Sport for Peace and Development.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/67/L.77.

Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolution, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I give the floor to the representative of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a short statement on the draft resolution on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (A/67/L.77). Papua New Guinea welcomes the draft resolution.

Sporting activities bring together peoples at all levels, including different groups, nationalities and

countries, to share challenges and develop bonds of friendship and promote tolerance and understanding. The Olympic Games, World Cup soccer, regional games and other sporting activities, for example, bring a sense of unity and friendship among competitors and nationalities. International sports also enable people to know and understand other peoples and cultures.

In the case of Papua New Guinea, we are a country of great contrasts. We have a population of approximately 7 million people, with hundreds of different tribes and ethnic groups with their own unique cultures and traditions. We are also in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for having the largest number of languages — more than 800.

Such a contrast brings tough challenges to our Government to try to instil a sense of unity among all of our people for peaceful coexistence among the many different tribal, ethnic and regional groupings in our country. Disputes between individuals often result in tribal and ethnic clashes because of the diversity of the groups that make up the country. However, when Papua New Guinea plays regional or other international sports, the entire country is united. Great patriotism and national unity are evident among the people. Tribal or ethnic conflicts are forgotten as everyone is united in their support for the national team.

Papua New Guinea will host the regional South Pacific Games in July 2015. The Games will bring together sportsmen and sportswomen from all the 23 Pacific Island countries and territories to compete in all forms of sport, including athletics, football, rugby, tennis and other sports. In preparation for the Games, our Government has invested more than $18 million this year to upgrade sporting facilities, which reflects our commitment to funding sports as a channel towards development and peace in our country.

Undertaking regular sporting activities also enables people to stay fit and healthy. It means less risk of developing an unhealthy lifestyle and its associated diseases. Excelling in sports also brings great fame and wealth to teams and individuals. Sporting icons in boxing, golf — today we have a tennis icon present with us — and other sports inspire young people to take up sports with dreams of emulating their idols.

Again, Papua New Guinea strongly supports the draft resolution before us as a means of promoting development and peace through sports.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/67/L.77, entitled "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Saijin Zhang (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to tho ? delegations listed in document A/67/L.77, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland and Turkmenistan.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt without a vote draft resolution A/67/L.77, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/67/L.77, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 67/296).

The President: Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): The United States is pleased to have joined the consensus on today's resolution on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (resolution 67/296). We also welcome the presence in the Hall today of members of the international sport community, in particular Mr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, and Mr. Larry Probst, President of the United States Olympic Committee.

The United States is home to a vast array of sporting communities and activities. Americans of every identity and background participate in sports, from backyard play and little leagues all the way to professional and international competition. That

diversity and universality of participation is what makes sport the opportunity to advance development and peace, as noted in today's resolution.

The United States delegation is particularly pleased to see that the resolution emphasizes the importance of safeguarding human dignity without any discrimination whatsoever. Part of what makes sport so important is that it promotes inclusiveness and brings together people of different ages, races, religions, social status, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. Sport cuts through all segments of society and is instrumental in empowering people of diverse backgrounds and identities while fostering tolerance and respect for all people, no matter what they look like, where they worship or whom they love.

At the recent Forum on Sport for Peace and Development, co-hosted by the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee in early June, there were many examples cited of sport being used to promote positive social change, development and conflict resolution. The United States recognizes that sport diplomacy is a valuable means to strengthen cultural relations among nations. Through our SportsUnited programme, thousands of people from more than 100 countries have participated in sports and cultural exchanges.

The further use of sport as an educational tool has long been underestimated. With the introduction of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, we can further extend the good work that happens around development and peace through sport, provided we build upon the universality that lies at the core of sport's appeal to the citizens of all our countries.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union, who wishes to make a statement following the adoption of resolution 67/296.

Mr. Vrailas (European Union): I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. I warmly welcome the presence here in this Hall of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Jacques Rogge.

The European Union and its member States welcome the establishment of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, 6 April, which commemorates the revival of the modern Olympic Games, and would like to reaffirm their commitment to multilateral action to promote sports and their importance for development and peace.

Sport is an important means to promote inclusiveness for people independently of their age, race, religion or belief, social status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. It can bring people together, help overcome cultural, linguistic and other barriers and contribute to the fight against all forms of discrimination.

The European Union and its member States also acknowledge the important role of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and its work in that regard.

The European Union and its member States would also like to reiterate their position concerning the proclamation of international days, years and decades, which must be consistent with the international guidelines we have collectively agreed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, which were reaffirmed twice, in General Assembly resolutions 53/199 and 61/185. While joining the consensus on the resolution just adopted (resolution 67/296), we will continue to actively defend respect for the Economic and Social Council guidelines on future proclamations and give priority to efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the work of the General Assembly, in support of its revitalization.

Ms. Hewanpola (Australia): Australia is proud to support the resolution adopted today (resolution 67/296) proclaiming the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. As a proud sporting nation, we are committed to the ideals of sport and its potential to inspire, unite and promote understanding across language, cultural and geographic divides.

The declaration of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace helps to promote the potential of sport, its contribution to education, health and physical fitness and the development of other important life skills, including confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, cooperation, social interaction, communication, tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution. Ultimately, sport has the potential to help us reach our development goals, to promote understanding and to achieve sustainable peace. Today's resolution makes clear the important role of the United Nations in furthering those ideals.

We thank you for this initiative, Mr. President, and we celebrate the power of sport to promote social inclusion and to bring together people of differing ages, genders, races, cultures, faiths and status, including

sexual orientation and gender identity. As they say, sport provides a level playing field where all participants are equal, an ideal that is to be promoted throughout the world.

Mr. Calvo Calvo (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Costa Rica would like to thank the co-facilitators, the delegations of Monaco and Tunisia, for all their efforts and congratulate them on their successful work. My country would also like to welcome Mr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, and the great tennis player, Mr. Djokovic, who were present with us today for the adoption of this important resolution (resolution 67/296).

Costa Rica was proud to have sponsored the initiative to proclaim 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Our country has been working for several years on the development of policies that allow us to use sport as a means of promoting a more inclusive, supportive and healthy society. We are therefore confident that the proclamation of this Day will motivate us to continue our work, with the goal of strengthening our aspirations for peaceful coexistence and sustainable human development through economic, social, environmental and cultural development. We would therefore stress that sport is an intrinsically holistic activity, as it is one of the best contributions to comprehensive human development and, alongside music and the other arts, promotes the joy of learning together.

Costa Rica strongly believes in promoting human rights as a preventive measure. Just as human rights education has a double impact on the empowerment of people and respect for the rights of others, we recognize the potential of sport to serve as a universal language that helps build the values of respect, understanding, diversity and tolerance among human beings, as well as to promote peace and development.

Over the past year, Costa Rica has carried out several activities focused on sport. We are co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace at the United Nations in Geneva, through which we organized various activities focused on people with disabilities during the most recent session of the Human Rights Council and on the importance of physical activity for public health at the World Health Assembly.

In March, we hosted the tenth Central American Games, held in San José. During the Games, we headed up the founding of the first Central American commission for peace through sport, made up of all the Olympic Committees of Central America.

From 9 to 11 September, we will host the first Global Youth Summit, jointly organized by the Government of Costa Rica and the International Telecommunication Union, in which sport as a tool for physical and mental health, in addition to its usefulness in protecting the rights of children, will be one of the central issues discussed.

All those activities and projects show that our Government, led by President Laura Chinchilla Miranda, continues to follow our decades-old policy focused on strengthening the civil tradition of our country and committed to development and education in their broadest sense.

We therefore invite all Member States to take concrete actions to make sport a fundamental right that generates social transformation and is accessible to all people, regardless of age or social status, in the pursuit of a more full, healthy, free and peaceful life.

Mr. Roet (Israel): Israel is pleased to have sponsored this resolution (resolution 67/296) and recognizes the fundamental role sport can play in promoting peace and development. Sport is woven into the fabric of Israeli society, and we are particularly proud that, in many international sporting events, Jewish and Arab Israelis participate side by side, without bias or discrimination.

We thank Mr. Wilfried Lemke, the United Nations Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, for his devoted efforts to promote tolerance and understanding. We are honoured that he has visited Israel on various occasions and participated in the "Sport as a mediator between cultures" conference, co-hosted by Israel and Germany with the support of UNESCO. Mr. Lemke's Office has been instrumental in promoting programmes such as Sports for Life and a running partnership between Israel, Jordan and Germany that brings together Jewish and Arab youth to play soccer and build understanding.

We also applaud this resolution for recognizing the valuable role of the International Paralympic Committee. We are inspired by the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality. Paralympic athletes push the limits of their physical abilities and, in doing so, break down countless boundaries.

At the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, the International Olympic Committee failed to uphold the universal values of the Olympics. Israel remembers in honour the many Jewish athletes who were barred from competing in the Games in Nazi Germany. We also recall the Munich Olympic massacre in 1972, when 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and eventually killed.

The delegation of Israel supports the resolution's call to place sports at the service of humankind and without any discrimination whatsoever. We interpret that to include, inter alia, race, religion and nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity. By supporting today's resolution, we can ensure that the tragedies of the past will serve as a clear lesson for the future.

Mr. Adamov (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Belarus welcomes the adoption of resolution 67/296. We participated in the drafting of the resolution and sponsored it.

We believe the contribution of sport to peace to be a very important one. In order to achieve peace, sport needs to be constantly supported, with many efforts by States and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Sport should not be used for political purposes that run counter to the goal of civilized and friendly relations among States. Such actions are at odds not only with the principles of sport but also the spirit and letter of the Olympic Charter. We see such actions as potentially destabilizing.

Belarus would like to see friendly multilateral relationships in sport, and so we must be more active in defending sport. The United Nations and the IOC must be more active in doing so, as must others. It is important that the United Nations adopt cooperation mechanisms that can be used to protect and defend the spirit of the Olympics, and not allow certain States to engage in discriminatory actions that run counter to that spirit.

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 12?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.97

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

97th plenary meeting
Thursday, 29 August 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 116 (*continued*)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/67/936)

Draft resolution (A/67/936, para.79)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 115 and agenda item 116 at its 23rd plenary meeting, on 11 October 2012.

We have gathered this afternoon to review the deliberations and endorse the findings of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly. During the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Working Group has been ably chaired by my good friend, His Excellency Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, Permanent Representative of Egypt, one of the most skilful diplomats with whom I have ever had the privilege of working. At the outset of my remarks, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to him and his colleagues for their dedication in the endeavour to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly.

The report (A/67/936) of the Working Group summarizes the results of the six sessions that were held over the past few months. Substantive discussions were divided into two parts, namely, a general debate and exchange of views, followed by a series of meetings that addressed a number of specific issues, organized around four thematic clusters defined by the Chair.

The first focused on the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship with the other principal organs of the United Nations, as well as other groups and organizations outside the United Nations system. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of making better use of the Assembly's vast prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, especially as they relate to establishing greater complementarity with the Security Council on matters related to peacekeeping, and with the Economic and Social Council on advancing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

The Working Group also underscored the importance of deepening the relationship with informal intergovernmental groupings, in part based on the provisions contained in landmark resolution 67/289, adopted by consensus on 9 July and entitled "The United Nations in global economic governance". By establishing the General Assembly as the pre-eminent venue for regularized interaction among the Group of 20 and other States Members of the United Nations, the foundation has been laid upon which coordination on global economic, financial and trade issues can be built up in the time ahead.

The second cluster of topics that was taken up by the Working Group related to significant technical matters, such as working methods, the implementation of resolutions and agenda streamlining, in addition to

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the consideration of options for more time-conscious and secure balloting in the plenary and in the Main Committees, including the selection of committee chairs. Attention was also paid to the question of thematic debates. I welcome the fact that paragraph 7 of the draft resolution on revitalization contained in paragraph 79 of document A/67/936

> "Recognizes the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and invites the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice".

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Member States for having participated in such high numbers in such events during the sixty-seventh session. I believe each of them has helped to advance the process of revitalization, thereby demonstrating the singular convening power of the General Assembly. Key subjects included, among others, the role of international criminal tribunals in reconciliation; the United Nations in global economic governance; the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa; sustainable development and climate change, culture and development; entrepreneurship for development; education for youth; and inequality.

In less than a fortnight, I will convene the final thematic debate of the sixty-seventh session, on the role of credit-rating agencies in the international financial system. The occasion will provide the General Assembly with an unprecedented opportunity to engage with leading international experts, academics, senior executives of the agencies themselves, as well as other financial entities. We will be able to take stock of the reform measures already undertaken and discuss additional ones it may be necessary to implement in order to establish a more objective and reliable rating system that can benefit the international community as a whole.

The third cluster of issues that fell under the purview of the Working Group revolved around a consideration of the role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads in the United Nations system. As the Group's report underscores, a more inclusive and transparent process involving the General Assembly at earlier stages, mindful of the terms set out in Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting resolution 11 (I) as well as other relevant documents, would enable the entire membership to be apprised of the views of perspective candidates for the position of Secretary-General, thus helping them to make informed choices and provide timely feedback to the other principal organs of the United Nations.

The fourth cluster included an examination of the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. That included how to strengthen its institutional memory, conduct a more effective transition between term-holders, enhance its relationship with the Secretariat, develop options on how to increase the number of permanent staff assigned to the Office and address the manifest inadequacy of the budgetary apportionment, which has not increased since 1998.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Member States that have contributed to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly since its establishment, in March 2010. That, however, should not be seen as an optimal solution to the chronic underfunding of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. I would therefore like to extend an appeal to the General Assembly to consider raising the allotment for the Office, in the context of the forthcoming deliberations on the Organization's regular budget.

I strongly believe that, in deciding whether to contend for the post of the President of the General Assembly, no country should be constrained by the possible financial implications of a successful candidacy, and respectfully urge the Assembly to take appropriate action to level the fiscal playing field among Member States.

We have taken a number of steps in revitalizing the world's sole universal body that operates on the basis of sovereign equality. I believe we should invest additional efforts in that endeavour with all deliberate speed. We should aim to further empower the General Assembly by ensuring that the best possible use is made of its broad prerogatives, as provided by the Charter of the United Nations. We must strive to reform the way the Assembly conducts its work so that it may come to play a leading role in twenty-first century global governance, one in which the advantages of effective multilateralism, framed by adherence to the accepted principles and norms in the conduct of international relations, are respected by all.

In 1945, the General Assembly was created to serve as the moral conscience of the international community.

It was established as the democratic repository of the rights of all nations — large and small, developing and developed — to live in peace, security and prosperity. For decades, the great promise made by the United Nations founders has now been fulfilled in its entirety.

A growing number of countries are coming together in their belief that a more effective, transparent and inclusive Assembly is an imperative for the twenty-first century. Revitalization, in my view, holds the key to enabling this institution to set the agenda for a world that is in the midst of a profound, strategic and environmental transformation, as the complex challenges that we now face cannot be solved in isolation from one another.

A little over a year ago, world leaders tasked the General Assembly with the primary responsibility for conceptualizing a universal transition to sustainability. Whether it succeeds or fails will represent, in my view, a strategic litmus test of whether or not the revitalization of the General Assembly can be completed with the requisite boldness and foresight necessary for it to assume its rightful place at the helm of world affairs.

In September 1963, one of the greatest statesmen of the twentieth century, United States President John F. Kennedy, stepped up to the podium of the General Assembly for the second and final time, a mere two months before he was tragically assassinated in Dallas. He said,

> "My fellow inhabitants of this planet ..." (*A/PV.1209, p. 7*);
>
> "The effort to improve the conditions of man ... is not a task for the few. It is the task of all nations ... [f]or plague and pestilence, plunder and pollution, the hazards of nature and the hunger of children are the foes of every nation. The Earth, the sea and the air are the concern of every nation. And science, technology and education can be the allies of every nation" (*ibid., p. 6*)
>
> "Never before has man had such capacity to control his own environment: to end thirst and hunger; to conquer poverty and disease; to banish illiteracy and massive human misery".

He concluded,

> "Let us complete what we have started..." (*ibid., p. 7*);
>
> "[for] I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings." (*supra*)

I believe we should draw inspiration from those words and the vision they have come to embody. As we look ahead to the many steps that still need to be taken — on revitalization and so much else — let us remember that the Organization was founded not simply to prevent a slide backwards into unconscionable warfare, but also to strengthen the bonds of trust among States and peoples.

As we come to a point at which such a welcoming horizon of possibility comes into view, let us be moved to action, as President Kennedy was, by the belief in the ingenuity of humankind to overcome the obstacles they themselves have set on the path to the creation of a better world, one in which scarcity, hardship and privation are seen not as a fate that we must accept, but as a challenge that this determined generation can overcome by truly coming together in a common cause.

We shall now proceed to consider the draft resolution contained in paragraph 79 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly", contained in paragraph 79 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution contained in paragraph 79 of document A/67/936 was adopted (resolution 67/297).

The President: I should like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group, who so ably conducted the discussions and complex negotiations of the Working Group. That is an official note of recognition, as I myself thanked him earlier. I really think that he did a tremendous job. I want to thank him wholeheartedly for his hard work and the endeavour by him and his team. I very much hope that this is going to be continued and built upon in his work during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 116?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held a debate on this item at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth plenary meetings, on 15 November 2012. Members will also recall that, pursuant to decision 66/566, of 13 September 2012, the Assembly continued intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary meetings during the current session.

In a letter dated 14 August 2013, I circulated for consideration by Member States language for an oral decision on this important issue.

May I now take it that the General Assembly decides:

"To reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and an increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council;

"To immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations and Security Council reform and in an informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, as mandated by General Assembly decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008, 63/565 of 14 September 2009, 64/568 of 13 September 2010, 65/554 of 12 September 2011 and 66/566 of 13 September 2012, building on the informal meetings held during its sixty-seventh session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States; while welcoming the active engagement, initiatives and intensive efforts of the President of the General Assembly, and taking note of the previous proposals of the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, and noting with appreciation his active role and concrete efforts, including the preparation of the text reflecting the positions of and proposals submitted by Member States, with a view towards an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council;

"To convene the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, if Member States so decide; and

"To include in the agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly an item entitled 'Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council'"?

It was so decided.

The President: I should like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan for chairing the negotiations on my behalf, and for doing so impartially as to the positions and yet in a manner partial to progress.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 117?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

United Nations A/67/PV.98

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

98th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Jeremić ..... (Serbia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 17 at its 61st plenary meeting, on 21 December 2012. In order for the Assembly to take action on the draft resolution before it today, it will be necessary to reopen the consideration of agenda item 17. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17 (*continued*)

Information and communications technologies for development

Draft resolution (A/67/L.78)

The President: Members will furthermore recall that at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 17 to the Second Committee. To enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on the draft resolution, may I also take it that the Assembly wishes to consider agenda item 17 directly in plenary meeting and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Azerbaijan to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.78.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I have the honour, on behalf of the sponsors — Afghanistan, Belarus, China, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and my own country, Azerbaijan — to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.78.

The draft resolution, submitted to the Secretariat on 28 August, is the result of several informal consultations convened by the delegation of Azerbaijan in an open and transparent manner throughout August, as well as bilateral meetings, information sessions and briefings. Following its submission, the delegation of Azerbaijan continued its engagement with interested delegations to accommodate the remaining concerns and to reach an agreement on the text. In that respect, I am pleased to introduce the relevant changes to document A/67/L.78.

First, the title of the draft resolution should read as follows: "Developing cooperation for better connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region".

Secondly, the second preambular paragraph has been largely merged with paragraph 1, which should read as follows:

> "Emphasizes the importance of improving connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region and, in this regard, takes note of the proposal on the establishment

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of the Eurasian Connectivity Alliance, aimed at highlighting synergies among Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international development institutions towards improving the development of regional telecommunications transit routes".

Thirdly, paragraph 2 should read as follows:

"In this regard, invites Governments, the United Nations system and international development institutions, within their current mandates and core competencies and within existing resources, as well as the private sector, civil society and academia, to engage in relevant discussion on the proposed Eurasian Connectivity Alliance."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their flexibility and cooperation. My special thanks goes to the sponsors.

The draft resolution before us seeks to renew attention and support for the proposal to establish a Eurasian connectivity alliance, initially recognized in consensus-based resolution 67/194, entitled "Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway". The Eurasian connectivity alliance is being proposed as a platform for a regional structure that can help to enhance transregional cooperation in the area of information and communications technology (ICT), assist Governments in better responding to the needs and challenges existing in the ICT sector through broader regional dissemination, attract stronger interest from the private sector, as well as effectively manage the telecommunications infrastructure by facilitating experience- and knowledge-sharing.

The support of Member States is crucial for the success of the initiative. We believe that such broad political support can contribute to a more conducive environment to address the issue of connectivity at a broader regional level and to consolidate ongoing efforts in the respective area.

Equally important is the interest of and cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations, given their experience, technical expertise and outreach capacity through established channels for communication with Government and industry leaders and civil society. We strongly believe that the adoption of the draft resolution will further encourage discussion of the proposal at the intergovernmental level and planning for the work ahead of us.

In conclusion, I once again thank all delegations for their constructive participation and support to the process and invite them to join the list of sponsors and to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/67/L.78, as orally revised, entitled "Developing cooperation for better connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/67/L.78, as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/67/L.78, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 67/298).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Sahakov (Armenia): I have requested the floor after the adoption of resolution 67/298 in order to explain my delegation's position on it.

My delegation recognizes that regional connectivity solutions can enable countries to achieve economies of scale by offering reduced costs and better quality of services. We are ready to discuss possible options for enhanced regional connectivity in that regard.

Armenia strongly advocates, in every possible sphere, the principles of regional cooperation, which are significant contributors to peace, confidence-building and relations based on the general principle of good neighbourliness. In that respect, it is important to note that the realization of the regional project should be open to all interested States, including Armenia. We also believe that it should not result in the creation of more favourable conditions for those countries whose aim is to use economic projects as tools to impose pressure in order to reach their political goals.

Ms. Derderian (United States of America): The United States strongly supports the goal of increased connectivity and the need to bridge the digital divide, and has spoken out in favour of many of the initiatives that we understand resolution 67/298 intends to further. The process and timing of the resolution are, however, less than ideal. Resolution 67/194, which was adopted earlier during this session, also addressed the Eurasian

connectivity alliance. In addition, taking this matter up so late in the session, after the Second Committee has concluded its work, deprives delegations of the benefit of their experts and does not facilitate careful deliberation.

Nevertheless, the United States joined the consensus on the resolution and looks forward to working with its proponents and other Member States to expand connectivity in the Trans-Eurasian region.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union, who wishes to make a statement following the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Poulsen (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

Let me start by emphasizing the importance that the European Union (EU) and its member States attach to the development of information and communications technology (ICT) and to further regional integration and connectivity in the Eurasian region and beyond. The EU is currently providing funding for a range of ICT projects that address Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including €5 million for the Central Asia Research and Education Network, which links scientists and students in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with more than half a million users in 500 universities and research institutions, and provides access to European and global research communities; €1 million for regional electronic communications and regulatory framework harmonization between the European Union and its Eastern Partnership partner countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; €2.1 million to ensure the stable operation of the connections of South Caucasus national research and education networks with the European academic network; and additional funding for the Eastern Partnership partner countries and Central Asian countries through the Poverty and Information and Communication Technologies in Urban and Rural Eastern Africa ICT research project, which is expected to be succeeded by additional projects in the same region that are currently under formulation.

Despite the substantial, concrete support to the development of regional information and communications technology connectivity in Eurasia, and while we do not want to oppose a consensus in the Assembly on the resolution on cooperation for better connectivity and data communications transit routes, the European Union and its member States would like to stress that we do not see specific value added in resolution 67/298. Indeed, it is not common practice for the General Assembly to issue multiple resolutions on the same topic during the same session, unless there are prevailing reasons to do so. Resolution 67/194, adopted a few months ago during this session, includes a specific paragraph — paragraph 7 — that takes note of the proposal to establish a Eurasian connectivity alliance. We recall that we were not in favour of a standalone resolution at that time, given that the yearly ICT resolution allows us to take stock of and evaluate the progress of regional initiatives. However, in the end, we engaged constructively, on the understanding that any follow-up would be integrated in the next ICT resolution, during the sixty-eighth session.

On the issue of substance, we believe that resolution 67/194 provides the right General Assembly measures, both emphasizing the importance of improving regional connectivity and taking note of the proposal to establish a Eurasian connectivity alliance. We do, however, believe that the proper place for these messages are the ICT resolution, and we will work to ensure that any follow-up to today's resolution is integrated in the ICT resolution at the sixty-eighth session.

In conclusion, the European Union and its member States remain committed to practices that promote the effectiveness of the General Assembly. The European Union and its member States are also committed to remaining strong partners with the Eurasian region on ICT and regional integration.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.